



Kilimanjaro fundraisers
— see story page 9.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH, 2013

**Dine In Style in
the Vale** (Pages 16-17)



**A CLOSER LOOK AT...
Vale Business Park**
(Pages 26-28)

'TOMMY CAN YOU HEAR ME?'



The Bridgend Youth Theatre's production of Tommy was a big hit last week in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl. (For a report, and more photographs by Mandy Thomas, see pages 6 and 7).

Guilty verdict on local woman for dangerous driving at level crossing

A PENSIONER has been convicted at Cardiff Crown Court of deliberately driving over a level crossing on the main Cardiff to Swansea railway line at Pencoed, as the warning lights were flashing, the alarm bells sounding and the barriers descending.

It took a jury less than 30 minutes to find 69-year-old Patricia King of Brookvale, Pencoed, guilty of driving an A Class Mercedes vehicle dangerously.

King had denied the charge and at one point said: "I don't have a death wish, and I regret what happened every day. I punish myself every day."

Prosecutor Gareth James said that about 11.30am on March 16, Keith Thomas was with another man who stopped his vehicle at the level crossing at Hendre

Road, Pencoed, because the alarms were sounding and the gates were closing.

They then saw a light coloured Mercedes drive through the crossing as the barriers were descending.

"Fortunately, it got across the railway lines and drove away," said Mr James.

CCTV cameras captured the incident which took place in a heavily built up area where pedestrians were present. A signalman controlling the crossing had to stop lowering the barriers for safety reasons.

King's vehicle was identified and British Transport Police spoke to her.

She admitted driving, saying she had been late for an appointment.

"It was very obvious that driving as she did was dangerous," said Mr James.

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 3)

COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

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LIFEBOATS' DRAMATIC 'MAYDAY' RESCUE OFF THE SKER BEACH

THE two Porthcawl lifeboats answered a 'Mayday' call at 11.40am on Sunday morning after a fishing boat off Sker Beach, Porthcawl, reported it had picked a canoeist out of the water, who was suffering from hypothermia.

The first boat, the D Class, was on scene within five minutes of launching. Ross Purchase, RNLI volunteer helmsman, said: "When we got to the fishing boat, the canoeist was very cold, and in obvious need of medical assistance."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



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Festival celebrates great Welsh harpist

YOUNG harpists are urged to compete in a new festival to celebrate the life and work of a great Victorian harpist from Bridgend.

The Pencerdd Gwalia Festival commemorates John Thomas – the Bridgend born harpist who became Queen Victoria's official harp player. The closing date for entries is St David's Day (March 1).

The festival coincides with the 100th anniversary of the acclaimed harpist's death.

The Pencerdd Gwalia Festival is being held to celebrate the life and work of one of Europe's greatest harpists in the 19th century and to ensure that his compositions for harp are played. What better way to do this than by organising a competition and master classes for young harpists?" said festival chairperson Elinor Bennett.

"Like generations of harpists in Wales, I was brought up on John Thomas' arrangements of Welsh melodies. He wrote them to ascertain that people outside Wales knew and appreciated the beautiful music that we have here."

John Thomas was born the son of a tailor in Bridgend on March 1, 1826, and became one of the greatest harpists in Europe and harpist to Queen Victoria. He died in March 1913 in London. He was invest-



A sketch of John Thomas performing at an Imperial concert, St Petersburg.

ed with the title of 'Pencerdd Gwalia' (The Chief Musician of Wales) at the Aberdare Eisteddfod 1861 for his contribution to Welsh music.

A £1,000 prize is on offer for the best performance of music by John Thomas in the under-25 competition, and £500 for the under-17 category. Both winners will also get the opportunity to perform in the festival concert alongside Catrin Finch and the present Royal Harpist, Hannah Stone.

Catrin Finch and Katherine Thomas (principal harpist of the Welsh National Opera) will adjudicate and they will give master class performances at the Festival Concert on April 13 at the Tabernacl Chapel, Bridgend.

The present Royal Harpist, Hannah Stone will perform alongside Gary Griffiths (baritone), the Choir of Capel Tabernacl and the winners of the two competitions.

The main festival celebrations will be held in the town where he was born, Bridgend, on April 13. The preliminary rounds will be at Merthyr Tydfil on March 23 and during the Harp Festival on April 3, with the finals held at Bridgend.

Some of John Thomas' arrangements of Welsh melodies (such as 'Watching the Wheat' and 'The Minstrel's Adieu to his Native Land') have formed the basis of harpists' repertoire in Wales for generations.

MP raises hospital fears with chief



Madeleine Moon with Andrew Davies.

THE Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon, met up again with Professor Andrew Davies, new chair of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board this week.

He took over the post in January, succeeding Win Griffiths, who retired at the end of last year.

The MP reported: "I was delighted to meet with Andrew again, having worked closely with him when he was a Minister in the Welsh Assembly Government."

"We discussed a range of issues and particularly the major challenges that face the NHS in the years

to come, with ever-decreasing resources.

"I was pleased to discuss how we can work together to improve the health of local people. I also took the opportunity to raise concerns brought to me regarding the possible downgrading of the Princess of Wales hospital."

"I am pleased that Andrew has taken on this role. He is extremely hard working and dedicated to achieving the best from every role he has ever held."

"I look forward to working with Andrew again and helping to achieve the best possible medical care for those who use the services of ABMU."

Pyle food store plans St David's Day event

THE Co-operative food store in Pyle is gearing up for the 'Big Welsh Weekend' (March 1 and 2) to celebrate St David's Day and boost fundraising for the retailer's new charity of the year, the Carers Trust.

The Pyle store will be hosting a tea and cake event in the café, with the best of home baking, including Welsh cakes and other traditional treats.

Rob Cook, manager of the store in Pyle, said: "We operate in the heart of local communities and occasions such as St David's Day provide us with a fantastic opportunity to celebrate all things Welsh, and to bring a bit of a village fete atmosphere to our stores."

"Many of the team are busy baking their finest wares for the tea and cake event, and I look forward to enjoying the celebrations with our customers, while raising money for Carers Trust."

Busy time at Bridgend WI

BRIDGEND WI's monthly meeting took place on February 19 at Hope Church Hall, where our president welcomed members and thanked those who helped out in the coffee morning on January 26.

Two members celebrated special birthdays this month, Elsie Stephens who was 87, and Cynthia Baily-Wood who was 70.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery were also sent to Mary Thomas, who had a nasty fall during the recent snow, breaking her leg.

Our speaker for the evening was Nicola Baily-Wood, who gave us an insight into speech therapy. Our

hostesses were Gaynor Coombs and Elaine Marshal.

Some members attended a flower demonstration evening at Pencoed Agricultural college.

We were all looking forward to our spring meal at the Mason's Arms on Tuesday, February 26. Also, marking International Women's Day, we have an evening with Carolyn Hitt, who will talk on changes in women's lives during the last 90 years, continuing our celebrations of the 90th anniversary of the WI in Glamorgan.

Our next event of the Penta Pen Y Bont link, will be at Coychurch Memorial Hall on Wednesday, March 13.

"GO FOR GLORY!" urges business chief

RIGHT: Steve Dalton, left, receives a 2012 IoD Award from Allan Griffiths, of sponsor Lloyds TSB Commercial.

A Bridgend business leader has urged other local bosses to "go for glory" in an award scheme that thrust him into the spotlight last year.

Steve Dalton, managing director of the town's Sony UK Technology Centre, was a winner in the 2012 IoD Wales Director of the Year Awards – and nominations are now open for the 2013 programme.

The awards highlight the best in Welsh leadership and some winners go on fly the flag for their country at the UK-wide IoD Awards.

Mr Dalton said: "It was an honour to win the Director of the Year Award for south Wales at the IoD Wales ceremony last year."

"The IoD is a prestigious professional organisation and to be recognised at this level is testament not only to my efforts but also to all of the people that I have the pleasure of working with at Sony."

"Recognition at this level ensures that our operation in Pencoed is publicised on a national basis and that our collective contribution to the economy in Wales becomes public knowledge."

"On a personal note, membership of the IoD and this award gives me growing confidence in my own ability to lead my team on our continuous journey of growth and ultimately a sustainable future in Wales."

Robert Lloyd Griffiths, director of the IoD in Wales, said: "There are brilliantly successful enterprise leaders across Wales; they will all help in driving the country away from these hard economic times."



"Our awards profile these innovators and entrepreneurs, and they illustrate a great faith and belief in Wales' enterprise sector."

"We urge companies and individuals to nominate leaders who are shining beacons in their own fields."

Categories include: Director of the Year, Young Director of the Year, Director in a Small Business, Director in a Social Enterprise,

Director in the Public Sector, Talent & Innovation Award and Director in a Family Business.

Welsh winners will be announced at a prestigious lunch on Friday, May 10, at Cardiff's SWALEC Stadium. Entry form and more details – iod.wales@iod.com, 029 2038 9990, <http://bit.ly/YAUxNn>.

Closing dates: nominations, February 28; entries, March 31.

'Lobby health board on PoW cutbacks'

I HEARTILY agree with the letter in The GEM recently in which Mr Huw Field expressed his concerns regarding the closing or downgrading of the Accident and Emergency Unit at Bridgend Hospital.

There was a public consultation on this matter held in Cowbridge Surgery, but this was so poorly advertised that very few people attended.

I was one of the public who did attend this presentation. There were fewer than 20 people there. The members from the health board were in a majority.

We were told that A&E would be down-

graded at Bridgend, but there would be paramedics available. The alternative provisions would be at Morriston or the Heath in Cardiff.

At present, Bridgend serves a number of the valley communities, as well as Bridgend, Maesteg, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge.

The ambulance provision in our area regularly fails to reach its prescribed target times.

While this is no fault of the ambulance personnel, it is of very great concern to those of us who might need their help.

I urge all members of the public to lobby their health board to reconsider the downgrading of provisions provided at the Bridgend hospital.

Gwen Baty, Cowbridge.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 28)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
21 Thur	02.58	7.3	15.34	7.4
22 Fri	04.07	7.8	16.33	8.0
23 Sat	04.53	8.4	17.17	8.5
24 Sun	05.32	8.9	17.54	9.0
25 Mon	06.08	9.4	18.28	9.6
26 Tues	06.41	9.7	19.04	9.9
27 Wed	07.17	10.1	19.38	9.8
28 Thur	07.55	10.1	20.14	9.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

TVB

'Beware these fake council refund calls'

FAKE phone calls claiming to offer council tax refunds are being investigated by Bridgend County Borough Council's Trading Standards Team.

The pre-recorded calls give the option to press one button to claim the refund or another button if a refund isn't owed.

But BCBC Trading Standards officers have discovered the call is actually from an unnamed sales and mar-

keting company and are advising residents to disregard unsolicited phone calls of this nature.

Deputy Leader Coun David Sage said: "Unsolicited phone calls come in many forms. They may be marketing calls, silent calls or pushy telesales calls. Most are unwanted and cause inconvenience to the receiver."

"We always encourage our residents to feel confident in ending an unsolicited call as soon as possible, especially if the call makes you feel

uncomfortable in any way.

"Receiving unwanted phone calls can be worrying, especially if received late in the evening. We suggest that information about such calls should be sent to Trading Standards, especially if a call appears to be suspicious."

BCBC Trading Standards urge residents to register with the Telephone Preference Service, which aims to reduce the number of unsolicited calls received. Registering with the Telephone Preference Service is free, and can be done by calling 0845 070 0707 or via the TPS website: www.tpsonline.org.uk

If you'd like further advice on unsolicited calls, or to report your concerns about a call you have received, contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 04 05 06 or email tradingstandards@bridgend.gov.uk.

'Excellent care at Princess of Wales'

OVER the past two months I have had reason to use the medical facilities at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

I would like to thank all the staff I came into contact with for the wonderful care, and professional service they provided to me.

What was, for me, a worrying time was helped enormously by their kindness and I would just like to say a big thank you.

Mrs Julie Nicholas, Port Talbot

Jail for burglar who lived on a boat in harbour

TWO hotels in Porthcawl were burgled by a man who travelled to the town from Blackwood.

For a period, 36-year-old Stephen Davies had unlawfully lived on a boat moored in the harbour from where he

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

stole tools and smoke flares, it was stated at Cardiff Crown Court.

Davies, of no fixed address, but who originally lived in Blackwood, was jailed for a total of eight months. He admitted

charges of burglary and theft and perverting the course of justice.

Prosecutor Jason Howells said that police arrested Davies in Mary Street, Porthcawl, because he and another person were acting suspiciously.

He had on him a smoke flare and was extremely drunk.

When arrested, he admitted burgling the Fairways Hotel with another man.

Mr Howells said the police had seen Davies in a garden with several bottles of alcohol, keys and cash.

He also jointly burgled the Atlantic Hotel and stole alcohol worth £71.

The flares, said Mr Howells, were taken

from a boat in Porthcawl Harbour, where he had been unlawfully living.

Initially, he gave police a false name and details.

Davies was said to have convictions for 61 offences, 24 for theft and dishonesty.

His counsel, Jeffrey Jones, said the burglaries were opportunistic and were committed when he came to Porthcawl from Gwent with another man.

He admitted being deceitful about giving a wrong name.

Judge William Gaskell said Davies had "a deplorable history of committing offences" and warned him: "You are very close to receiving a very significant sentence."

He was ordered to pay £100 victim surcharge.

TV veterans entertain at mayor's lunch

THE Civic Charity of the mayor of Bridgend county borough held a wonderful charity lunch at the Great House Hotel and Restaurant, Laleston, on Friday, February 22.

A warm welcome was extended by Norma and Stephen Bond, the Mayor welcomed the guests and extended a warm welcome to Howell Evans and Patricia Kane, the special guests who had travelled from Crowthorne, Berkshire,

to entertain. Howell has appeared on television many times, performing in Stella, Casualty, the Bill, and many other programmes.

He has appeared in numerous films, such as Mr Nice with Rhys Ifans as Howard Marks, and in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Howell has also appeared on stage in Under Milk Wood, School for Scandal, Twelfth Night, and Much Ado About Nothing, among others.

Patricia has also appeared in a range of television roles, including The Bill, The Vicar of Dibley, Doctors, Little Britain and many more. She is also known for theatre as well as her charity work, often alongside her husband Howell.

Everyone enjoyed the outstanding entertainment in the company of Howell and Patricia – an afternoon to remember!

Howell was born and brought up in Maesteg and attended Canaan Chapel as a young boy but left Maesteg at the age of 16 to work in music hall and theatre.

The next charity event will take place at Heron Hall, Heronsbridge School, with a concert including Heronsbridge School and Llangwydd Junior School pupils, on Wednesday, March 6 at 6.30pm. Tickets are £3 with children admitted free. MM

FRAUD DEFENDANT'S HOLIDAY CURFEW REQUEST IS REFUSED

A MOTHER of two "betrayed" two of her closest friends by involving them in a series of fraudulent financial transactions, it was stated at Cardiff Crown Court.

One of the victims of the scam became so upset after receiving a letter from a loan company that she was admitted to hospital with blood pressure problems.

Claire Pope (30) of Mackworth Street, Bridgend, pleaded guilty to 10 charges of fraud.

She was sentenced to a community order for a year, and a 12-week curfew from 7pm to 6am which includes electronic tagging.

A woman with no previous convictions, she was also ordered to pay compensation of £1,969 and costs of £200.

Prosecutor Gareth James said Pope was very friendly with two women in Bridgend, who, for many years, had regarded her as trustworthy.

Last year, she told

CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

them she was having a divorce and wished to conceal her money from her husband.

Pope asked them if she could put some of the money into their bank accounts.

But, said Mr James, the funds came from pay day loan companies.

The victims took this up with her, and she informed them there had been mistakes at the bank. They accepted that and believed her.

But eventually, continued Mr James, the pair began to receive letters from the loan companies and the women went to the police.

Pope was questioned and denied being involved.

But she was shown a number of texts by the police and admitted one fraud.

She then changed her position and falsely claimed she had applied for the loan with the full knowledge of her friends.

The total benefit,

said Mr James, was £1,969.

He said that when she applied for the loans, she had, unknown to them, used their names.

"She betrayed her friends' trust in her," said Mr James.

In a victim impact statement, one of the women said: "I can't believe she would do this to me. I was upset and embarrassed at being so gullible."

"She was my friend and I would never have suspected this."

She added that she had been terrified at being pressed for pay-

ment by the loan companies.

She said she had been pregnant at the time, and on one occasion, after receiving a letter, had gone to hospital with blood pressure problems.

Pope's counsel, Jeffrey Jones, said that eventually his client had "come clean".

The loan companies were now chasing her and some were charging up to 365 per cent interest.

At the end of the hearing, Pope asked through her counsel if the curfew timings could be amended to enable her to go on holiday to Egypt.

Judge Eleri Rees refused.

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ROTARY'S VALENTINE DATE WITH BRIDGEND COLLEGE!



The wannabe chefs at Bridgend College.

THE Rotary Club of Bridgend has again celebrated St Valentine's Day at the Seasons Restaurant in Bridgend College.

It was, the 25th consecutive year that the club has supported the students who prepare and present food there.

For 18 years, the restaurant manager, Mr Tony Trumper and staff, have helped them train for employment in the catering trade.

The variety of food, preparation and service has now reached a very high standard and Rotary have pledged our continued support

WM

Police appeal over Brackla burglary

POLICE in Bridgend are appealing for witnesses or information following a burglary in the early hours of Friday, February 22.

Between 12.30am and 7.30am, a house on Fair Oak Chase in the Brackla area of Bridgend was broken into and a Samsung digital camera, a Blackberry mobile telephone and a quantity of cash was stolen.

Detective Constable Rebecca Merchant of Bridgend CID said: "We want to hear from anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the area during the early morning hours of Friday, February 22.

"The camera contained a memory card with photographs of a recent family holiday which mean a lot to the victims of this crime."

DC Merchant warned: "It is so important for householders to remember to make sure doors and windows are locked, a simple precaution such as this, can save a lot of heartache and inconvenience in the long run."

Anyone with information is asked to contact DC Merchant on 01656 679518, or 101; or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 (quote reference 6213005520).

Town Inner Wheel celebrates 62nd birthday, in style!

Report and photographs by
KEITH E MORGAN



Dr Elizabeth Jones, past International Inner Wheel president, after blowing out the candles on the birthday cake before saying Grace.

secretary, who gave a warm welcome to John Bettles.

John's talk was entitled 'Humour of an Undertaker', and he introduced himself as the founder of Green Willow Funerals,

which is solely owned by the Cardiff YMCA, and is believed to be unique, as no other charity is known to own a funeral business.

He went on to entertain and captivate his audience with examples of humour that he had encountered during his years as a funeral director.

Mary Emmment-Lewis thanked everyone for contributing to the raffle, which raised £63 for her charity 'Mary's Meals' before asking Mrs Sheila Burge, secretary and past Inner Wheel president, to give a vote of thanks to Mr Bettles for a very enjoyable talk.

LEFT:
John Bettles, founder of Green Willow Funerals



Dramatic 'Mayday' rescue



The lifeboatmen who took part in the rescue.

Laleston WI latest news

THE guest speaker at the meeting on February 7 was Mr Michael Stokes, whose subject for the evening was Nostalgic Views of Old Bridgend.

His collection began with post cards exchanged between his grandparents before they were married.

He then continued with memories of the weather and showed views of: the 1960 flood in Bridgend; 1963, the frozen river; 1978, a very heavy snowfall causing chaos; 1979, another snowfall, and further snow in 1983.

It was a nostalgic talk and one which caused quite a few memories among members.

During January a theatre outing had been made to Cardiff to see *Phantom of the Opera* which was much enjoyed by all. It is to be hoped that there may be more such trips in the future.

The luncheon club will meet on February 21. Various W.I. events are due to take place in the next few months and Laleston members will hope to be able to attend them.

The next meeting will take place on 7th March and the guest speaker will be Mrs. Joyce James and her subject - The Mystery Lady, Agatha Christie.

JR

More Maltese flights for Cardiff Airport

CARDIFF Airport has announced that Air Malta is more than doubling its capacity this summer.

This year, the airline will be offering more than 15,000 seats to travellers.

An airport spokeswoman said that, due to popular demand, Air Malta would be using a larger aircraft and would be adding an extra flight, on Friday evening. The current flight is on a Tuesday morning.

Spencer Birms, head of commercial operations and air service development at Cardiff Airport said, "We are delighted Air Malta is responding to the demand from Wales and increasing both frequency and capacity to this popular holiday destination."

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)
"I instructed my crew to get the canoeist off the fishing boat onto our lifeboat, and start our way back to the lifeboat station."

As the lifeboat was heading back to the station, it was met by the faster Porthcawl RNLI Atlantic Class Lifeboat, who took the canoeist onto their boat, and made quick speed to the lifeboat station, where the canoeist received first aid by the crew, and was taken to hospital by ambulance.

RNLI Helmsman Simon Emms, said: "It was a good job that the crew of the fishing boat spotted the canoeist in the water when they did."

"If he had been in the freezing water for a few minutes longer, the outcome would have been totally different."

"When we arrived at the Lifeboat Station, we put our first aid training straight into use, and made the canoeist stable until the arrival of the ambulance."

House burgled

POLICE are investigating a burglary at a house in Jubilee Crescent, Sarn between 8pm and 11pm on Tuesday, February 19, when entry was forced via a rear window and a 32-inch flat screen Sanyo television stolen.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Constable Rebecca Merchant at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or 101; or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 and quote reference 62130052757.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gospel mission

THE annual Gospel Mission at Horeb Baptist Church, Nantymoel, takes place today (February 28) and March 1-2 at 7pm with local pastor evangelists Darren Rogers, David Bennett, Christian Jones and Paul Jones.

Seed swap

TRANSITION Llantwit invites residents to a seed swap at the Heritage Centre (lower Town Hall) on Saturday, March 9.

There will be information on seed-saving and growing, seed-sowing, fun for children, and light refreshments.

Free entry; 10.30am-1pm. Call 07804 624795 for more information.

CARNIVAL CAPERS AT LIBRARIES!

IT'S party time for Bridgend Library and Information Service, as it prepares to bring some carnival capers to the county borough. Libraries will be a hive of activity throughout March, with an array of exciting carnival-themed events taking place including:

● Bridgend Library's carnival on Saturday, March 9, where you can create your own musical instrument, join the story trail, and wave flags and make lots of noise in the grand parade;

● Maesteg Library's great bake family cake bake at 10am on Tuesday, March 19, where you can decorate a tasty cake with a carnival theme;

● Sarn Library's Mad Hatter tea party at 4pm on Friday, March 22, where children can enjoy writing and listening to poems and stories, munching on jam tarts and winning prizes for dressing as their favourite Disney Character;

● Y Llynfi's family history carnival at 10.30am on Saturday, March 23, where staff can help you get to grips with your family tree. Children can also dress up in old-fashioned costumes to recreate old photos.

That's not all the fun that's in store! A programme of carnival-themed bounce and rhymes, storytimes and coffee mornings for all the family to enjoy are taking place throughout the month.

Why not bring a friend to the party? To add to the excitement, if you recommend a friend to join a library during March, you will both be entered into a prize draw to win a Kobo e-reader!

To discover the other fun events taking place throughout March, visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries, call 01656 754800, follow @BridgendLibs on Twitter, like Bridgend Libraries on Facebook or visit your local library.

For more information, contact Luke Fox, Corporate Marketing Assistant on (01656) 642090. Email: luke.fox@bridgend.gov.uk Website: www.bridgend.gov.uk

'Thank you to Princess of Wales'

MAY I, on behalf of myself and family, thank the Princess of Wales hospital for their help and concern on Tuesday last week.

My son, Andrew, was taken into A & E with a suspected heart attack at 11pm. Even though A & E was full, he was rushed straight in to see the doctor, after having two ECGs and blood tests, he was diagnosed with anaemia and 10 (one perforated) stomach ulcers.

There were only TWO doctors on call for the WHOLE HOSPITAL and some of the people had been there since 1pm waiting for blood tests results! I myself went home at 4am!

My family and I could have shares in the hospital all the times we have used it; my Mother died there, but we have always received the best of care for whatever ailments or emergencies we have had.

How dare they try to close our wonderful dedicated A & E. Do the powers that be not live in the real world of today? Even though I was very tired, the staff did nothing but help and calm the situation.

Had it been a heart attack for real, I doubt we would have made it to Cardiff or Merthyr Tydfil in time.

So again my thanks to all at the Princess of Wales Hospital and long may you stay open. Mary Emmment-Lewis, Porthcawl

Pupils in Bridgend get on their bikes for 'The Big Pedal 2013'

CHILDREN, parents and teachers in over a dozen schools across Bridgend, are leaving their cars at home and jumping on their bikes and scooters for the school run between February 28-March 20, as part of Sustrans' Big Pedal competition.

Pupils will also be raising money for Sustrans today (February 28) with a Super-heroes Day, when pupils will donate £1 to Sustrans to dress up as their favourite Super-hero.

James Ridley of Llangynydd Primary school did well last year. He said: "We're really excited to be part of The Big Pedal."

"Many of the teachers used to cycle to school as kids and we remember how much we loved it."

"What's more, with one in five cars on the road during the morning rush-hour being on the school run, encouraging our children to walk, cycle and scoot reduces congestion and pollution around the school gates."

Last year, more than 950 schools took part, from Conwy to Cardiff and Aberystwyth to Pembrokeshire.

The combined efforts of children all over the country, and the rest of the UK totalled a massive 1,140,075 miles, saving 59,021 gallons of fuel and £368,484.

Nearly half of all children want to be able to get to school by bike but only four per cent actually do.

The Big Pedal shows children and parents just how easy it is to get around on two wheels.

The Big Pedal is the UK's biggest school cycling competition to get kids active.

It is powered by Sustrans, the UK's leading sustainable transport charity and pioneer of the National Cycle Network.

Malcolm Shepherd Sustrans chief executive said: "The average primary school journey is just 1.5 miles – the perfect distance to walk or cycle."

Every year, The Big Pedal helps tens of thousands of families rediscover the fun and freedom of cycling to school, get fit and save money at the same time.

"With the Welsh Government set to introduce the Active Travel Bill, promotions such as the Big Pedal are crucial in helping families discover the safe routes that exist in their communities."

"Evidence shows children that cycle to school regularly are more active and better learners – it's time for us all to get on our bikes!"

HOW THE BIG PEDAL WORKS

EVERY journey to school by bike or scooter powers a school around a virtual UK stage race. There are some great

prizes to be won once again, from bike storage to cycle stunt displays.

The race is funded by the Bike Hub and powered by Sustrans.

The Big Pedal – facts and resources:

Benefits of cycling to school; reduces traffic congestion around school gates; can lead to improved academic performance; helps children develop independence; increases levels of physical activity; it's sustainable and cheap – it's fun!

Top tips for children:

Stay visible using hi-vis vests and lights; make sure your bike is in working order; plan your route and let your parents or carers know; travel with a friend – it's more fun that way!

Planning a safe journey:

Sustrans provide free information for schools, parents, pupils, councils and anybody else interested in school travel initiatives.

Find answers to all those niggling school travel questions in the comprehensive FAQ section. Keep up with all the latest school travel news and events there.

To get your school involved in The Big Pedal, go to: <http://big-pedal.org.uk/>

ROGER DUTTON

LOCAL RESIDENTS URGED: 'Have your say on where money should be spent!'

BRIDGEND Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) is hosting (in partnership with Bridgend's Local Service Board) a 'Hear my Voice' event on March 5 from 9am-1pm at Bethlehem Church Life Centre in Cefn Cribwr, to hear residents' views on the single integrated plan for the county borough.

A 'Bridgend County Together' online consultation has been launched, which outlines the Single Integrated Partnership Plan which will replace existing community strategies. The service board is seeking the views of all voluntary and community-based organisations.

"This is an opportunity to have your say on the proposals. If you are an organisation that provides activities, advice, support and services to people who need them in your community you should rightly be involved, your views are vital to the future of public services in the Bridgend County Borough area," said BAVO's chief executive officer, Heidi Bennett.

"There are difficult times ahead, with huge cuts needing to be made to service costs in Bridgend county borough. These cuts, coupled with the ongoing economic climate and welfare reform, could potentially have a devastating impact on the third sector and the communities we service."

"Voluntary groups are often at the cutting edge of supporting the most vulnerable people in society, and we anticipate an increase in need, alongside the potential cuts to our funding."

"Third sector providers are often more cost effective than other providers thanks to the ongoing fundraising activity of groups and indeed, the sterling work of volunteers and we want to make sure that local groups/clubs' work is recognised and their views are taken into account."

"As members of the local service board, BAVO wants to make sure the limited resources available are being allocated and focused on the right priorities, the community has to be at the heart of decision-making," she added.



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Bridgend Youth Theatre brings all the excitement of a Who gig to Porthcawl

Photographs by
MANDY THOMAS

More images from the show can be seen on www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk

WHEN it comes to musicals, and how they end, you can make a variety of claims.

Blood Brothers, for instance, has to be the saddest ending (with *West Side Story* running it close), while for a young lovers' happy ending, you can't beat *Singing in the Rain*.

For the most feelgood ending, I would point to *Hairspray* or *Chorus Line*, and for the most dramatic, it's hard to beat *Cabaret*.

However, if you want a nomination for the most exhilarating ending to a show, I can't imagine anything beating the last 15 minutes from this year's Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) production of Pete Townshend's *Tommy*, which ran for three nights last week in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

The show's finale, with 'See Me Feel Me' merging into 'Listening To You', was followed by an encore of 'Pinball Wizard', and for that 15 minutes, with the entire cast of juniors and seniors singing their hearts out, there was enough energy on stage to light up a small town.

For middle-aged members of the audience, still able to remember the first time 'Pinball Wizard' was played on *Top of the Pops*, dodgy knees, stiff backs and frozen shoulders were forgotten as the Pete Townshend air guitar moves were on show once again.

Many local councils are pretty lacklustre when it comes to supporting youth theatre, so Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is to be congratulated for funding and supporting the BYT – and the BYT has repaid that faith with a long string of superb shows with high production values.

That was evident in this show, with a striking set by Nick Burnell and Jon Owen, and a top class band, under the musical direction of Michael Plowman.

You can't do anything by The Who without a great drummer, and Phil Hughes, a former Porthcawl Comprehensive pupil, came back to keep the music driving on relentlessly.

There were strong performances throughout the cast, with Joe Wiltshire-Smith taking the role of Tommy. Joe is in danger of

**REVIEW
by PHILIP
IRWIN**

getting typecast as a Messiah. Two weeks ago he was the title role in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, with adoring acolytes surrounding him.

It's much the same in *Tommy*, who becomes a charismatic leader after years as a deaf, dumb and blind boy (who sure plays a mean pinball).

Joe was a huge hit two years ago as Jean Valjean in *Les Mis*, and going from that to singing like Roger Daltrey is a big change of style, but he made the move seamlessly.

When it came to big numbers such as 'Sensation' and 'I'm Free', he was completely at ease and playing the rock star came easily to him.

This is Joe's last year with the BYT, before he moves on to drama college, and he is definitely one to watch for the future. As he can also do comedy very well, he should have plenty of choices.

David Garner and Cate McHugh were an excellent Mr and Mrs Walker (Tommy's parents) and Cate really let rip with her big number, 'Smash the Mirror'. She is another who can sing melodies and rock songs with equal facility.

Greg Sage showcased his hip hop dancing while playing Uncle Ernie. For various reasons, Uncle Ernie has become a creepy spiv, rather than a child molester (as he was in the original album) and Greg played him as a real East End wideboy – a dodgy Del Boy.

You couldn't help but warm to Oat Jenner, as the nasty Cousin Kevin – an over-the-top display of gleeful sadism – with enough moves to show that he will be a good dancer in future years.

Hannah Dando was a fine Gypsy (the Acid Queen) and Annie Davies, who played the starstruck Sally Simpson, showed a great deal of promise.

Holding the show together were the two narrators – Rebecca Lewis and Ceri-Anne Thomas – who are on stage for most of the time, and did more than just perform their roles well, as they were instrumental in guiding the younger performers as they came on stage.

Joe played the adult Tommy, but there were



ABOVE: The cast onstage during their encore – The Who classic, 'Pinball Wizard'.

three four-year-old Tommys, and three 10-year-old versions. I saw the Thursday version, and Patrick O'Neill and George Neeson were excellent, but I am assured that the Friday and Saturday pairings were also in fine form.

Andy Burnett and Greg Sage were responsible for the fine choreography, and the assistant directors, Shelley Rees-Owen and Naomi Pearl Roberts, did so much good work in keeping a large cast under control.

Roger Burnell, of course, remains in overall charge of the team and, once again, has put a group of youngsters on stage who have grasped that shows like this only happen through hard graft and team work.

A friend of mine remarked that even the youngest cast members stayed totally in character throughout the show, and that has always been a real joy in watching the BYT.

The directorial team ensures that everyone on stage is playing a part in the action, and that can only happen if the cast buy into the ethos.

Some years ago, I wrote that Roger Burnell was a little like Arsene Wenger, every few years replacing the likes of Patrick Viera and Thierry Henri with younger versions, such as Cesc Fabregas and Robin van Persie.

Things haven't gone so smoothly for Arsene since then, and I've since discovered that Roger is a life-long Cardiff City fan.

Sorry Roger, comparing the BYT to Malky Mackay's boys doesn't feel right.

I need a classier team. One that has a distinctive style and also lets its key players move on and then replaces them with new stars.

Perhaps Michael Laudrup's Swansea?



Joe Wiltshire-Smith (Tommy) with Hannah Dando (the Gypsy).



Oat Jenner (Cousin Kevin) gives a 10-year-old Tommy (George Neeson) a rough time.



ABOVE and LEFT: Tommy with Sally Simpson (Annie Davies).



ABOVE: Uncle Ernie, played by Greg Sage, has a money-making scheme in mind.

Bright young cast has Grand Pavilion rocking as Tommy takes to the stage!

Photographs by
MANDY THOMAS

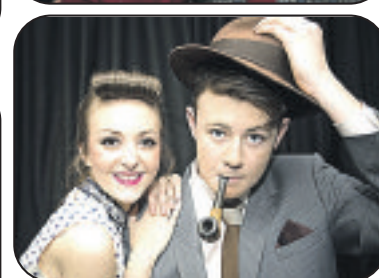
More photographs from the show can be seen on www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk



Tommy is flanked by the two narrators, Ceri-Anne Thomas (left) and Rebecca Lewis.



ABOVE: Uncle Ernie tells the press the latest news about Tommy.



Mrs Walker (Cate McHugh) with her lover, played by Jack Davies.



FOR THE CAST AND PRODUCTION CREDITS SEE OVERLEAF (PAGE 8).

Young actors reflect on latest stage success

(Continued from pages 6 and 7)

MEMBERS of the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) who appeared in last week's performances of Tommy had plenty to say about the experience:

Annie Davies, who played Sally Simpson, said: "A rock opera is something that BYT has probably never done before and it has been really exciting, week on week, working on new material, delving deeper into the script and the world of Tommy."

"Before rehearsals began, I wasn't sure if I was going to like the story and was unfamiliar with the music, as I thought it would be more appealing to the older generation."

"However, I can honestly say I've loved every second on my involvement in the show. It means a lot to be involved in the production, because the story line is captivating and I feel all ages are able to relate in some way to the production."

Ceri-Ann Thomas, who plays one of the narrators, said: "I think Tommy is a show that breaks boundaries and unites old audiences with new, due to the amazing soundtrack."

"It's a show where you cannot help but sing and dance to the music, even if you aren't a fan of The Who. Even on stage I had to hold back!"

"I feel this show is about unity but also not

being afraid to be different, or of anyone that is."

Meredith Lewis said: "I think that Tommy has been an exciting show which has been really challenging, but fun to perform."

Kate Jones said: "Tommy is a great show jam-packed with legendary music from The Who. Its iconic sound was great fun to replicate and I'm really glad BYT did the show."

The next production for junior BYT members, produced with *It's My Shout*, is *Alice in Wonderland*, scheduled for May 29-30 in the Grand Pavilion.

New members are welcome and information is available via www.itsmymusical.co.uk

CAST AND PRODUCTION CREDITS

Mrs Walker – Cate McHugh; **Captain Walker** – David Garner; **Uncle Ernie** – Greg Sage; **Minister** – Owen Rhys Evans; **Officers** – Lewis Scott, Gethin Phillips, Tom Rowlands, Kian Jenkins, Gethin Williams; **Nurses** – Kate Jones, Kayleigh Margetts, Hannah Parker, Lili Smith; **Lover** – Jack Davies; **4-year-old Tommy** – Patrick O'Neill (Thursday); **Thomas Herbert (Friday)**, Rhys Jones (Saturday); **10-year-old Tommy** – George Neeson (Thursday), Evan Laidler (Friday), Cieran Davies (Saturday); **Tommy** – Joe Wiltshire-Smith;

Narrator 1 – Rebecca Lewis; **Narrator 2** – Ceri-Anne Thomas; **Judge** – Gethin Phillips; **First Barrister** – Mathew Jones; **Second Barrister** – Gethin Williams; **Cousin Kevin** – Oat Jenner; **Minister's Wife** – Meredith Lewis; **Local lads** – Nathan Williams, Jack Davies, Tom Rowlands, Kian Jenkins, Lewis Scott, Mathew Jones, Gethin Williams, Gethin Phillips, Rob Davis, Owen Rhys Evans, Tom Lewis, Samuel Lloyd, Dominic Hoven; **Local lasses** – Kate Jones, Meredith Lewis, Hannah Parker, Kim Robotham, Megan Evans, Kayleigh Margetts, Bethan Stone, Scarlett Marengi, Annie Davies, Emma Moorcroft, Alys Masters, Michaela Sellick, Lauren Coates, Laura Underhill, Saoirse Davies, Harriet Collins, Kate Jones; **Hawker** – Lewis Scott; **Harmonica player** – Rob Davis; **The Gypsy** – Hannah Dando; **Specialist** – Meredith Lewis; **Specialist's assistant** – Tom Jenkins; **Reporters** – Tom Lewis, Samuel Lloyd, Dominic Hoven, Harriet Collins, Kate Jones; **Sally Simpson** – Annie Davies; **Mrs Simpson** – Hannah Parker; **Mr Simpson** – Kian Jenkins; **DJ** – Rob Davis.

Production Team: Director – Roger Burnell; Musical Director – Michael Plozman; Assistant Director – Shelley Rees; Owen and Naomi Pearl Roberts; Production Manager – Lowri Izzard; Production Co-ordinator – Ryan Evans; Choreography – Andy Burnett and Greg Sage; Production Assistants – Ceurywn Humphreys and Lowri Izzard; Design Consultant – Nick Burnell; Set Constructor – Jon Owen; Photography – Mei Lewis; Marketing Mentor – Toni Cosson; Costume – Amy Jones; Costume Assistants – Steph Doel, Holly Curtis, Kay Anderson, Beth Dyer, Sophie Wynne-Owen, Annabelle Thomas, Ffion Thomas; Makeup Assistant – Carley Millard; Venue Stage Manager – Steve Dennis; Rigging Consultant – John Kirk; Sound Designer – David Spencer; Sound Engineer – Richard Davies; Lighting Designer – Mario Williams.

Band: Conductor – Michael Plozman; Keyboard – Phil Juliff; Chris Williams; Guitar – Chris Carpenter, Dave Jefferies; Bass Guitar – James Watkins; Drums – Phil Hughes; French Horn – Dave Hughes.

Bridgend MP's cheque for the counsellors



Edwina White, Madeleine Moon and Dr David Parr.

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon visited Ty Ellis to hand over another of her cheque donations received by completing questionnaires.

She reported: "I visited Ty Ellis at the end of 2011 to find them desperately seeking ways of funding the free counselling service they provide for the people of the county borough."

"I met again with Edwina White and Dr David Parr to give them my recent cheque and to hear that they managed to just survive another year."

"Despite receiving a cash boost of £223,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government in the last week, this is a grant specifically for the purchase of their building and they still do not have any financial help for the day to day running of the service."

"Fortunately, funding has been sought for a business manager who it is hoped will both expand the professional services provided by the counselling service but

also help place Ty Ellis on a firmer financial footing."

"Ty Ellis Counselling, run by volunteers and counsellors, who receive no payment for their work, was established 15 years ago to provide professional counselling service to the community."

"They are overwhelmed with referrals from local GPs, psychiatrists and health teams, yet receive little funding for the day to day running costs of the service."

"This lack of funding is a constant source of worry and tension to the volunteer management board for the Ty Ellis service. Ty Ellis provides a lifeline to many men and women who are tackling a wide variety of problems which impact on their mental health."

"This is a highly professional cost effective service that we cannot afford to lose. I hope my cheque can help in a small way to help meet running costs."

If you can help Ty Ellis in any way, donating or volunteering, please contact them on 01656 786486 or email: info@tyellis.org.uk

KEIRINA IN CAPITAL FINAL 'SWAN SONG'

THE Welsh flavour to the Capital One Cup Final on Sunday, February 24 wasn't confined to just Swansea City – the Wembley showpiece marked the end of a Llantwit Major woman's association with the Football League.

For Keirina Rowland, aged 29, the day of the final was a day tinged with sadness and pride as she said farewell to her colleagues at the Football League after working as the organisation's events manager for the last three years.

Her father Nigel told The GEM: "Keirina had been planning for Sunday's Capital One Cup Final even before the first ball had been kicked in anger last August."

"With new competition sponsors there was additional responsibility to ensure that Capital One had a terrific start to their sponsorship of the competition."

"The League Cup is often talked about as being the 'Peoples Cup Final' and Sunday's event certainly lived up to that billing."

Acting as an events manager is far from glamorous, as Nigel explained: "In the immediate lead-up to the final, it means long hours and tough talking to ensure that what the television audience and fans see is a slick, well-planned event."

"On the day, Keirina was in the event office underneath the stadium, dealing with all the issues you just cannot possibly plan for."

"Thankfully, when they do occur they are few and far between and no-one is aware that there have been any problems."

"Keirina's satisfaction came from

the knowledge that fans of both sides left Wembley with fantastic and unique memories of their day as guests of the Football League."

Keirina has been something of a lucky charm for Welsh teams playing in English football. During her spell at the Football League there has been a Welsh presence at every one of the events – the League Cup final, the League Trophy final and the divisional play-off finals.

Nigel said: "Keirina is leaving with great memories and experiences that will only hold her in good stead when she takes up her new role, at the beginning of March, as the operations and events manager at Longleat Enterprises Ltd in Wiltshire."

Nigel and wife Sue travelled up to London for the day to witness their daughter's 'farewell event'.

Nigel said Welsh and English football could take a great deal of pride in the way the clubs and supporters conducted themselves.

"We will remember two things in particular about that day at Wembley."

"Firstly, on 70 minutes, although well beaten, all the Bradford City fans started waving their flags as one in support of their team."

"Then came the riposte from the Swansea faithful as they clapped the opposition as one! Who said fair-play is dead in football?"

"Secondly, following the final whistle, there was the respect afforded by the players of Swansea City as they formed a guard of honour at the bottom of the steps as the Bradford City players collected their runners-up medals. Were they watching in the Premier League?"

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Anthony Woodward – Plas Penycae, Penycae, Bridgend – cut back trees from buildings/driveway to nearest regrowth points or parent limbs.

Mr Clive James – 102 Tremains Court, Brackla – 30 per cent canopy reduction of silver maple.

Mr G Goodridge – 87 Mill View Estate, Maesteg – 1.5 storey side extension.

Mr A Evans – 16 Acacia Avenue, Porthcawl – two storey rear extension.

Mr Huw Emanuel – New Street Clinic, New Street, Aberkenfig – change of use of building formerly used as a health clinic to one dwelling.

Stormy Down Properties (Wales) – 80 Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle – change of use from plant hire to B1 (storage and distribution) including siting of 20 secure containers and associated parking.

Grwp Gwalia – Condors Rest, Station Approach, Tondur – demolish existing conservatory and convert garage and erect dormer to rear.

Mr Steve Williams – Former stores, Garn Road, Maesteg – erection of one-bedroom detached bungalow.

Mr John Flint – Cherry Tree Stables, Woodlands

Park, Kenfig Hill – log cabin building for staff accommodation and office.

Mr Steve Duffill – 13 Oaklands Road, Bridgend – two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and canopy to front.

Mr R Brown – 294A New Road, Porthcawl – change of use from studio apartment to retail selling homewares.

Mr Martin Pound – 2 Moelgilau, Bettws – refurbishment works to existing ground floor double garage.

Mr John Toomey – 32 Homfray Street, Maesteg – two storey extension to rear.

South Wales Contractors – Glanrhyl Farm (North Riverside Cottage), Pysnaf, Bridgend – application for lawful development certificate for use of land as builders' yard storage of materials/plant etc.

Mr Chris Howell – Awelon, Maesteg Road, Llanyrwyd – new detached dwelling.

Mrs M Saunders – 2 Pwll Evan Ddu, Coity – loft conversion and dormer extensions.

Mr S Matthews – 33 Danygraig Avenue, Porthcawl – single and two storey extension to the rear and sun terrace/balcony to front.

Mr S Matthews – land r/o 35 Danygraig Avenue, Porthcawl – Proposed detached dwelling.

Rhondda Cynon Taff Regeneration and Planning Division – Maerdy Wind Farm, Land off Rhigos Road (A4061), Treherbert – erection of one wind turbine maximum height of 145m, together with ancillary infrastructure.

Bridgend County Borough – Celtic Court, Tremains Road, Bridgend – change of use to include Class D1.

Mr C Kendall – 4 Dan yr Eglwys, Bettws – first floor flat roof extension and side extension to existing garage, convert garage to gym/store/playroom and new garage.

Mr and Mrs J Beale – land rear of The Fold, 12 The Retreat, Porthcawl – proposed two no. four bedroom detached dwellings.

Mr and Mrs Penry-Ellis – Ty Newydd Farm, Heol Simonston, Coity – convert ancillary residential accommodation to dwelling; new access; realign right of way, sub-divide curtilage and lower boundary wall to 900m.

Quiz League round-up

SCORES on Monday, February 18 were a shade lower than usual; even Llangewydd Arms dropped below 50.

They beat Tondur Railway Club 49-35. Tondur apparently started well enough but were unable to keep up once Llangewydd got into their stride.

Oldcastle 'A' also made 49 to Pheasant Poachers 26, picking up a few bonuses en route. Crown Inn 'A' beat Six Bells 42-33 and the remaining game in Division 1, though scoring lower, was tense, neck and neck all the way, before Mackworth Arms pipped Tyrysha Royals right at the end by 37-36.

Division 2 questions were a little less difficult – consequently, scores went up a bit. Pheasant Gamekeepers got 49 but even that was surpassed by their opponents Laleston Inn 'A' who made 53.

Highest aggregate of the evening was at Coychurch Wanderers, who scored an excellent 56 to beat the leaders Greenmeadow's 47. Lastly, Crown Inn 'B' had a 49-38 victory at Pyle RFC.

Here are this week's teasers:

1 In which county is Portland Bill?

2 Where in the body would you find a Basophil?

3 Name the Notts Forest and Man United player who had 26 caps for England as a midfielder between 1986 and 1992?

4 Name the ruling class of Prussia, military in spirit, who supported Bismarck prior to the Franco-Prussian war?

A RUDGE (For Quiz League)

ANSWERS:
1. Dorset.
2. In the blood (it's a type of white blood cell).
3. Neil Webb.
4. Junkers.

Fundraisers hit the heights for Velindre



The 'Tim Velinmanjaro' team: John Mainwaring, Louise Piper-Jones, Paul Clarke, Keith Thomas, Mandy Clarke, Keith Staley, Hannah Jenkins, Terry Jones.

Report and pictures above and below, right, by **KEITH E MORGAN**



Success; the team at the summit of Uhuru Peak 5,895 metres above sea level
(PHOTO BY HANNAH JENKINS).

CALLING themselves 'Tim Velinmanjaro' the journey to climb Kilimanjaro began just over two years ago with a group of friends from Newton Lifeguard Club in Porthcawl.

A number of members of the club had friends and family who had used the facilities at Velindre Cancer Hospital in Cardiff, so the challenge was set to raise cash for this worthy cause.

So, a group of friends agreed to self-fund a climb up Kilimanjaro in the summer of 2012: Hannah Jenkins, Louise Piper-Jones, Terry Jones, Keith Thomas, Keith Staley, Jonathan Mainwaring, Mandy and Paul Clarke.

A number of the local primary schools took part in a competition to come up with the team name including Pyle Primary, Cornelly Primary and West Park Primary. The winner was Meurn Nelson from West Park Primary School.

Over the next two years, the group held a number of fundraising events including half marathons, the Porthcawl triathlon, entry in the Porthcawl Carnival as 'Scooby Doo', a number of charity nights and hog roasts at the Hi-Tide and

Porthcawl Fire Station, together with collections at concert nights in local south Wales venues.

On August 19, 2012, the team took their flight to Nairobi and on to Kilimanjaro. The next five days saw the team walking (and some rock climbing) along the Machame route (also known as the Whisky route) towards the final peak at 5,895m.

Throughout the walk, the team members heard "pole, pole" meaning slow, slow, the guides' way of ensuring everyone acclimatised to the altitude.

The porters were absolutely amazing every day. The team were woken with hot drinks at the tent and fed three-course meals. The calm manner and good humour of the guides was an invaluable part of the trip (as well as the team names they came up with for each team member). Their experience certainly showed, when all eight of the group made it to Uhuru Peak – the summit!

All feelings of tiredness and altitude sickness were forgotten as the Welsh flag was proudly held up!

It is with much sadness that the team has since learnt, in late November 2012, one of the main guides has

since passed away due to yellow fever.

The trip has been an amazing experience for all of the team. Not just for the climb, but for the support everyone has received over the last two years, from friends, family and so many residents in Porthcawl and the surrounding area. People's interest, enthusiasm and commitment towards the self-funded climb and for Velindre, has been overwhelming.

Recently, the team handed an initial cheque for £43,130 over to Velindre. More contributions have subsequently been received and a 'big thank you' must go to all those who have helped in the many ways to support the team and raise funds.

A 'thank you' evening was held in the Hi-Tide on Friday, February 22, where the 'Tim Velinmanjaro' team gave a short, but humorous visual presentation of the climb, as well as presenting a final cheque for £44,780.58 to Andrew Morris, head of Velindre fundraising.

Andrew confirmed that the money raised under the 'Tim Velinmanjaro' flag, would be used to equip the long-stay ward at the hospital. This ward has 31 beds and the money will be spent on

interactive TVs with built-in DVD players for each bed, together with laptops, tablets and other items in order to relieve the patients' boredom and allow them to keep in contact with the outside world.

Bananas and cakes have the Fairtrade message Sussed!

SAINT LUCIAN Fairtrade banana producer, Sandra Joseph is exchanging the balmy air of a Windward winter for the acquired charm of Porthcawl, when she visits Sustainable Wales on March 6 (from 1pm-3pm), to raise awareness of Fairtrade Fortnight.

Sandra is a banana farmer and part-time gym instructor. She will give a short presentation on how Fairtrade has affected her life, family and community. There'll also be banana cakes and other banana-based treats available throughout the event, together with 'Betsey the Banana'. Even Sustainable Wales' 'Smoothie Bike' is hoping to make an

appearance, dishing out delicious banana smoothies.

"Buying a product with the Fairtrade logo means supporting farmers, miners and workers all over the world through a minimum-price mechanism for their goods."

"This helps counteract the effects of punitive trade tariffs imposed by European and North American governments, which make a mockery of the much exalted virtues of the free-market."

The Fairtrade premium the farmers in Saint Lucia get for every box of bananas has been invested in electric fans for the local medical centre, and improvements to local schools. Visits like Sandra's help bring the sometimes abstract ideas behind Fairtrade to life, making them more tangible.

Sustainable Wales' Fairtrade Fortnight fes-

tivities continue with the return of Porthcawl's most exciting cake-baking competition and 'all you can eat' glutton-fest on Saturday, March 9.

If you intend to enter, please bring your Fairtrade cake/s at 10.30am – opening to public tasting at 11am. Entry is free to bakers, £2.95 to adults and £1.50 to children.

A selection of Fairtrade home-made cakes, chocolate, and tea and coffee will be available at SUSSED throughout Fairtrade Fortnight. Pop into the SUSSED Café and taste the Fairtrade goodness for yourself.

All events will take place in The Green Room (above SUSSED, 4 – 5 James Street, Porthcawl), with proceeds going to Sustainable Wales. All events are open to the public.

MICHAEL GORE



ABOVE:
The 'Tim Velinmanjaro' team assembled at the Machame Gate of the Kilimanjaro National Park (Photo by Hannah Jenkins).



Louise Piper-Jones presenting a cheque for £44,780.58 to Andrew Morris, head of Velindre fundraising.

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Vale Council's 'panic and chaos' over school closures

TWO weeks ago, I wrote in this regular column about the proposals to close three primary schools in the Vale.

Since that article I have barely been able to believe how the local authority has reacted in relation to the issue of their own school closures. As GEM readers will be well aware, the three schools involved are Llanfair and Llanfarcfan in the rural Vale and Oak Field Primary in the heart of Gibbonsdown in Barry.

I'm certain that the public outcry from parents and governors at the two rural schools and the support from The GEM caused panic and a quick change of mind by the cabinet member responsible for children's services, about the proposed closure of Llanfair and Llanfarcfan Primary Schools. Oak Field was left hanging, without even the courtesy of a visit from any councillor or Assembly Member.

Oak Field is one of Barry's fastest improving schools. Over the last 12 months it has been recognised by Estyn for the improvements and at the end of 2012, local councillor and member of the Vale cabinet, Coun Rob Curtis, wrote to the local press congratulating the school on its improvements.

I attended the public meeting at the school last week as parents and governors looked to co-ordinate their campaign to fight the proposed closure. It is obvious to me that parents are angry and are up for the fight.

They feel let down by councillors they thought they could trust – none of whom attended their public meeting, including one that sits as a governor for Oak Field.



Vale MP Alun Cairns
reports to GEM readers

The contrast is remarkable. As soon as there was a change of policy, with a plan not to close Llanfair and Llanfarcfan, the cabinet member for children's services, Coun Elmore was keen to visit the schools, seemingly to claim credit.

Oak Field Primary is in one of the most deprived communities in Wales and the school plays a vital part within the community. It is as important to the area of Gibbonsdown as any other school is to any other community. Until this week, there had been no interest in visiting Oak Field.

However, as we go to press, the word is out that the Vale cabinet is also withdrawing from closing Oak Field. This smacks of panic and chaos.

I will be truly delighted if the parents win the day, but we cannot guarantee that to be the case until the final votes are taken on March 4. The cabinet is in chaos, with very different views being

expressed from one day to the next. Presumably, nothing would stop them from changing their minds again?

Success breeds success, and I'm sure that the recent improvements at Oak Field Primary, as recognised by Estyn and others, will encourage more parents to use the school.

This has also drawn a strong sense of community feeling from parents and I know they will want to play a full part in securing the school's success. I am determined to do all possible to support them.

There are several lessons that stem from this chaotic saga. The first is that parents can win the day when their arguments are sensible and logical. Secondly, the local authority need to be open and transparent and should not put headteachers and chairmen of governors in such an impossible position.

The authority also need to lobby the Welsh Government for greater freedom in organising schools. It is their policy that led to such a chaotic position.

Finally, pupils need to be at the centre of all decisions. This sorry tale has worried and traumatised young children; many assumed they wouldn't see their friends again and thought that they wouldn't be able to go to school.

I congratulate all the parents, governors and pupils for their campaigning. The communities pulled together and deserve full recognition for their triumph.

To guarantee their long term futures, we need specific reasons why the cabinet do not want to close the schools.

Should we return to this position in a year or two, we need to be able to revert to the reasons why to block any future plan for closure.

HERO OR VILLAIN?

DAVID EPHRAIM will be speaking to members of Penarth Aviation Society about the life and times of Italo Balbo, Italy's pioneering Air Marshal on Friday March 1.

Italo Balbo became marshal of the infant Italian Air force in 1929 when he was 32 years old, and gave his name to large formation flights of aircraft, still called 'balbos'.

In the early days of flying, the Italian was feted as a hero when in 1930 he organised inter-continental flights, which included 12 Savola Marchetti flying boats from Tuscany to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, and another formation flight of 22 seaplanes from northern Italy to Chicago.

President Roosevelt asked him to lunch, the

Sioux Indians made him Chief Flying Eagle, and streets were, and still are, named after him.

He was also a Fascist and leader of gangs of thugs and bullies who beat up and murdered socialists and communists. During the war flying over Tobruk he was shot down and killed by mistake by his own side.

He leaves a complex reputation: was he a brave man (he invited a Jew to a special lunch with Hitler, who was furious); a patriot (he

called Mussolini 'Hitler's shoe-shine boy' and thought Italy was fighting on the wrong side, and Mussolini called him a 'democratic pig'); a daring and imaginative aviator; a violent criminal – or all four?

Penarth Aviation Society meets at the Penarth Conservative Club at 7.45pm for 8pm on the first Friday of each month. Visitors are welcome. Further information from David Ephraim (01446 721321).

St David's Day in Belvedere Park

BELVEDERE Park is hosting a **St David's Day competition for the best Welsh costume** in **Barry on Friday, March 1 at 4pm.**

There will be prizes for first, second and third places free refreshments and Welsh cakes in the Community Café.

To find out more, contact Jean on 01446 403549. Volunteers to help in the park are also being sought.

Tel: 01446 771660 Mob: 07854 125404

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'KEEP AN EYE ON THE TIDE'

say Coastwatch volunteers

VOLUNTEERS at Nell's Point National Coastwatch Station are warning about the dangers of being cut off by the tide after a weekend incident at Sully Island left three people needing treatment for hypothermia.

At 2.40 pm on Sunday (February 24) duty watchkeepers at the station became concerned about five people who

were on Sully Island, attempting to get back to the mainland on a rising tide.

A spokesman said: "Four were then seen to enter the water and cross over and were clearly struggling to do so. The fifth remained on the island and was cut off."

"HM Coastguard was informed and a rescue was co-ordinated by them when they alerted the Penarth Lifeboat, who rescued the fifth individual from the island."

"The four who had

entered the water managed to make it to the mainland but were suffering from hypothermia and were treated at the scene.

"Three of them were taken by ambulance to the UHW, Heath, Cardiff, and were released after further treatment."

A spokesman for the National Coastwatch Institution, Nells Point, Barry Island said:

"We regularly observe people visiting Sully Island at low tide which is the correct time to visit."

"Leaving the return journey too late when the tide is rising is dangerous."

"Once the causeway is covered, you cannot check your footing and this is when panic sets in. Obviously the cold weather and time of year add to the danger."

"Mindful of this, the duty watchkeepers acted very quickly and thankfully, no serious injury appears to have occurred."

The National Coastwatch Station, Nells Point is manned by trained volunteers who keep watch during daylight hours 365 days of the year.

JH

Vale Ramblers find a hidden valley in park

AFAN Forest Park is a hidden valley where you enter an unexpected landscape of forested mountain slopes and steep river valley, rich in history.

It became a Forest Park in 1972 after the closure of the last mine in 1970, but from its history of monastic estates, agriculture and mining, this land of scattered farmsteads, ancient woodlands, viaducts, disused railways and mined land there is a great forest and woodland. It was in this interesting landscape that the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers had a lovely Sunday walk.

The day was cold, but we soon warmed up as we started walking along the track before making our way to the Gylfichi Ridgetop - a climb of 800 feet, but it was well worth the effort as it gave us some fantastic views of the valley and beyond.

Continuing on our way, we came to the ancient ruins of Nant y Bar Farm, a traditional longhouse that has been preserved due to European Funding.

Another interesting ruin along the trail was the Gylfichi 'Chapel of Ease', this had been an important place of rest and prayer for the earlier travellers journeying

north/south on an ancient ridgeway track, and in the 18th century was restored by Welsh Methodists to become an important chapel in the Calvinist movement.

At this point, we picked up the Penrhys Trail, which offered spectacular views of the Afan Valley, Swansea, the Gower and beyond to the Somerset coast. Descending quite steeply, this gave us a superb view of Pontrhydyfen, a village renowned for its many river crossings, the aqueduct which was built in 1825 and took water to Oakwood Ironworks, and the railway viaduct which carried coal from the valleys to Port Talbot until 1972.

We must also not forget its most famous son, Richard Burton - there is a trail that can be taken round the village called the Richard Burton Trail.

Making our way back on the track, following the course of the River Afan for a couple of miles, we made our way back to the visitors' centre to sample the lovely cakes and refreshments that were on offer at the cafe.

Visit valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk for further information, also follow us on facebook and twitter.

Gwenda Fitzpatrick

Best Kept Village competition has 10 reasons to celebrate

THE year 2013 is the Diamond Jubilee Year for the Vale's Best Kept Village competition, which was started in 1953 to mark the coronation of HM Queen Elizabeth II, and has been held every year since.

Competition secretary Carole Alexander said: "The aims of the competition are to enhance the local environment and preserve the character of the villages, as well as encouraging communities to work together to be proud of the area in which they live."

"All community councils have received an invitation to enter and it is hoped that they will encourage local groups such as the WI, residents associations and community centres to work together to arrange an entry for their area."

The top four winning villages all receive cash prizes: first prize: £500, second prize: £350, third prize: £200 and fourth prize: £100.

The overall winner receives an engraved brass plaque which they keep, as well as the Best



Newly elected chairman, Irena Wasilewska with president John Curteis and secretary Carole Alexander

Kept Village silver cup to retain for one year.

To mark the 2013 milestone of the competition, the committee has decided to award a special prize for a 'Diamond Jubilee Feature'. There will be a cash prize and commemorative plaque for the winning feature.

Judging will take place towards the end of June when the judges will be looking for community effort, well-maintained grass verges and hedgerows, absence of litter and rubbish, and colourful flower displays.

Running alongside the village competition is the schools' competition and all schools in the Vale will receive information on how to enter the competition.

The Best Kept Village competition has been sponsored by the Vale Council, town and community councils, LGA Limited, Dyffryn Gardens and Ffos Las Racecourse and Conference Centre.

For further information please contact Carole Alexander on 07751 372537 or by email at carole.alexander1@hotmail.co.uk

An away day to the National Trust HQ

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust Members and Volunteers is organising a trip to National Trust Headquarters in Swindon (by train from Cardiff Station) on Friday, March 1.

The association visits Heelis in Swindon tomorrow (Friday) for a tour of the facility, followed by lunch.

We are meeting in the main concourse at Cardiff Central Station at 10am to get the 10.25am train to Swindon (travel cost around £9.65).

Email vofgamt@gmail.com or telephone 01447 772325 for more details.

The AGM will be held in The Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge, on Wednesday, April 17, and it is hoped that the association will continue with new volunteers joining from Dyffryn.

JH

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Vale pub is fined for six hygiene offences

A VALE pub has been fined £3,000 for six food hygiene offences, after an investigation by the Vale Council's environmental health team.

Cuisine Inns Ltd, trading as the Barley Mow Inn, in Craig Penlyn, failed a routine food hygiene inspection on March 6, 2012.

An environmental health officer served a

Hygiene Improvement Notice with a compliance date of March 29, 2012, ordering a thorough deep clean of the premises.

However, when officers visited the pub on March 30, 2012, they discovered the business had failed to comply with the notice.

Tubs of chicken liver had also been left to defrost in the cellar, contrary to the procedures listed in the food safety

management system.

The council's head of public protection, Alun Billinghurst, said: "The premises were found to be in a poor state of cleanliness, the equipment was dirty and food was not being stored at the correct temperature to prevent the growth of bacteria which cause food poisoning."

"A refrigerator containing food was running at 15.4°C, which is within the danger zone.

"Food safety management procedures were clearly not being followed in terms of cleaning and food storage."

"Our officer ordered a thorough deep clean of the premises, but the business failed to do so."

The prosecution case for the Barley Mow Inn (Cuisine Inns Ltd) was heard in Cardiff Magistrates Court on February 7, 2013.

The business was fined £3,000 for six food

hygiene offences, ordered to pay £500 costs and £15 victim surcharge.

The six offences were:

1. Failure to comply with a Hygiene Improvement Notice (for cleaning the premises), thereby contravening Food Hygiene (Wales) Regulations 2006 Regulation 6 (2)

2. Failure to maintain a food business in a clean condition, thereby contravening Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 Annex II Chapter I Para.1

3. Failure to maintain articles, fittings and equipment in a clean condition, thereby contravening Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 Annex II Chapter V

Para.1 (a)

4. Failure to store food at the correct temperature which might result in a risk to health, thereby contravening Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 Annex II Chapter IX Para. 5

5. Failure to thaw food in such a way as to minimise the risk of pathogenic micro-organisms or the formation of

toxins in the food, thereby contravening Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 Annex II Chapter IX Para. 7

6. Failure to implement procedures based on the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point principles, thereby contravening Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 Article 5 Para 2(d).

Police appeal for suspect

POLICE in the Vale are appealing for information concerning the whereabouts of Andrew Thomas Smith.

Smith (43) is wanted on suspicion of breaking into Llandough Baptist Church between 12.40pm on Wednesday, December 19 last year and midday the following day.

Police say Smith is believed to be of no fixed residence, but is well known in the Barry area.

Anyone with information concerning his whereabouts, is asked to contact PC Natasha O'Rourke at Barry police station on 101, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 (quoting reference number 62120397207).

Ty Hafan draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the latest Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D763.

● £2,000: 839246
● The rollover, which now stands at £8,500 was not won this week.

● £10: 833251; 651351; 773311; 412141; 306486; 252926; 405962; 761818; 596539; 690877; 785292; 181224; 891779; 379016; 523016; 817480; 438166; 730911; 937498; 956224.

● £5: 394986; 610377; 857597; 567252; 207210; 652308; 575921; 163255; 653759; 168485; 725294; 756533; 495565; 132052; 830338; 793849; 694961; 139021; 510152; 802734; 507257; 819904; 556759; 103140; 662323; 754114; 533385; 633234; 169746; 530970; 807400; 169017; 637963; 903286; 875406; 346857; 549967; 968578; 739360; 337802; 131314; 726322; 583607; 444104; 618198; 293816; 360207; 740542; 349549; 186374; 242325; 710244; 563678; 576072; 610855; 331367; 762680; 545166.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2067 2062.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is steamed up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Volunteer planters at Jubilee Woodland



The tree planting detail take a break for the camera!

LOCAL volunteers were joined by the Vale MP, Alun Cairns, and Coun Gwyn John, of Llantwit Major – to plant trees at the Jubilee Woodland in Wenvoe recently.

As part of Diamond Jubilee celebrations, millions of people across the UK have been planting trees and creating new woodlands to create lasting legacies for generations to come.

With funding from Glastir Woodland Creation Scheme, Tidy Towns and the Vale of Glamorgan Council and assisted by Coed Cadw, Woodland Trust – native trees have been planted including field maple, oak, alder and rowan.

The MP joined local councillors and volunteers to help finish planting the remaining saplings at the site just off Caerau Lane in Wenvoe.

"I'm so impressed by the volunteers' hard work. The Jubilee Woodland is a wonderful local amenity for Wenvoe and I was only too happy to pick up a spade to help plant the remaining saplings," he commented.

RNLI AGM

The annual general meeting of the Penarth fundraising branch of the RNLI will be held at Penarth Yacht Club on Wednesday, March 13 at 2.30pm, and is open to the public.

Marathon man runs for the lifeboat

MEMBERS of the Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat community welcomed Alun Cairns MP to the station on February 21 to thank him for pledging to run the London Marathon for the lifesaving charity.

The MP for the Vale met volunteer crew, members of the fundraising and education teams and others who keep the station running and ready to respond to an emergency 24/7.

Mr Cairns said: "In the port and seaside town of Barry, the RNLI lifeboat is of vital importance. I have been very impressed by the commitment and the hard work carried out by volunteers at the station who are doing an amazing job."

"I hope that my marathon run will go some way towards raising the £10,000 the station needs to raise to pay for a pontoon that will enable the lifeboat to launch more safely and quickly than before."

He was given a tour of the Trent class RNLI lifeboat and Coxswain Hugh Davies, said: "Alun was very interested to hear that the fuel costs alone reach

£12,500 a year just at this station, so we are always grateful for the support given to us by the people of Barry, the Vale and beyond that helps to ensure that we are ready to carry out a rescue whenever our help is needed."

Talk for NFU Ladies

THIRTY-FIVE members of Vale NFU Ladies met at Penlllyn Hall and listened intently to Rebecca Rekey, who gave a slide show and informative talk on the Physic Garden at Cowbridge.

Without volunteers like Rebecca, the garden would simply not exist. It started with the Historic Garden Society and Heritage Lottery Fund, and has opened up the rear of the Old Hall.

This is a prestige garden in the Vale, which is used regularly by local people and visitors from around the World. A vote of thanks was given by June Studley. JS

OPEN MORNING

St. John's School Porthcawl

SATURDAY
9th MARCH
2013

9.30am
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and

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Youth project's free event

WITH the half term upon us, the Cadoxton Youth Project continued with its free events.

Rita Limbrick and the team had family fun sports and activities at Cadoxton Sports Hall, which is situated at the top of Church Road, behind Cadoxton Primary School, just by Victoria Park that commands spectacular vistas of Barry Town.

From February 9-17, the local youth project gave a free service to all families, allowing them to play in the wonderful facilities of the sports hall.

The youth project also gave out free fruit and drinks to the youths who attended.

Nicky Cusson brought the Olympic torch, which he carried in Barry for the London 2012 Olympics, for everyone to see.

There were competitions as well. Dylan and Theo came respectively in the drawing competition. In the highly-contested crossbow target shooting contest, Jordan came an impressive first with an unparalleled perfect score in one round.

Archie took a convincing second and Alfie held third with a constant performance. The family with the most sportsmanship went to the Jones and the Christoferato families. The Ewans' and Limbricks' took joint second.

The Cadoxton Youth Project will be holding the next event at the Sports Hall in Easter. Follow us on Facebook.

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MYSTERY OF THE BLACK LADY OF BOVERTON

THE hamlet of Boverton (or Trebefered in Welsh) lies a short distance east of the parish of Llantwit Major, and 4½ miles south of Cowbridge in the Vale of Glamorgan.

A hamlet is a settlement that has no church. Located on the Boverton Road, the locality is thought to have been founded by William the Conqueror where he built a castle in 12th Century.

However, it was Robert Fitzhamon who took the credit for the stronghold's creation, so its origins remain a mystery.

Boverton actually dates back to the Bronze Age period, with evidence of Iron Age and Roman relics found throughout the area.

It derives its name

from the Latin for Berton which is the Roman fort of Bovium, as it is understood that the Romans settled here too.

It was also the 'hold' of ancient Princes of Morganwg, which was where a baronial fortalice was owned by the Lords of Cardiff before falling into the hands of the Seys family.

During the Middle Ages, Roger Seys, a landowner and Attorney General of Wales, rebuilt the castle between 1587 and 1589. The daughter of Griffith Vos married Roger Seys, giving indications of how the castle remained within the family for generations until the middle of the 18th Century.

It was then abandoned and left to the elements of nature, which inevitably forced it into a ruinous state. Evidence of the castle's remains can still be seen today.

A sizeable manor house is also known to have stood near the site of the castle and was called Boverton Place. It was given to Griffith Vos (Vaulx) by Jasper Tudor (uncle of Henry VIII).

King John I was also hidden within the manor house by his estranged wife, which had mysterious factors concerning the signing of the Magna Carta.

This tale could be a case of folklore, as he did sign this important Charter in 1215.

On its outskirts, and within walking distance of the village, Stout Bay, Penry Bay, the pebble beach of Limbert Bay and the Seawatch Centre at Summerhouse Point can be reached.

The Seawatch Centre stands on high cliffs about a mile from the village and was originally built in the 18th Century on the remains of an Iron Age fort.

In the 1820s, a new

farmhouse was built, appropriately named Boverton Place. It was constructed within the grounds of the ruinous castle and possibly on the site of the old manor house.

It was during this century that information about the community of Boverton was written in a column by John Marius Wilson in the Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales.

This took place between 1870 and 1872, so the village gained publicity at that time.

As with many towns and villages throughout the county, it was during the 19th Century that Boverton attracted

many differing trades, including a now forgotten tannery.

It was also the time of the Industrial Revolution, and villagers would travel to nearby locations in search of employment.

From 1936-1961, the Welsh Land Settlement Association, established by Captain Crawshaw, took over the running of Boverton Place.

His enterprise then expanded over time to include a model farm of 650 acres.

He employed people from the mining communities who had become unemployed because of ill health or disability, and was,

therefore, well-established in the community.

Today, Boverton holds very little trade except for shops, a post office, and the Boverton Castle public house. But its historical roots still remain as a topic of conversation.

With such a wide variety of historical figures for such a small rural community, it would seem that

Boverton is no stranger to occurrences of the supernatural kind.

The phantom image of a lady dressed in black with a scarlet bodice and flouncing blue petticoat parades Pont-yr-Ysbyrd (haunt-

ed bridge).

Her tall, dark exterior giving the impression of holding her arms akimbo, and her life-like appearance seems to be in search of someone or something.

But who (or what) could she be looking for, and why does she seem so intent in lingering in that particular area?

However, quarrymen from our past found the mystifying remains of two skeletons abandoned behind a hedgerow, so could this mystic lady be hunting for her earthly corpse, hoping for a Christian burial?

Around Boverton

Place, the shadowy figure of a lady wearing old fashioned clothing has been seen on many occasions stalking its grounds.

Eerily, she chants the name 'Wissa' into the atmosphere, sending shivers down the spines of those who hear her.

Could this solemn-looking lady be Hadwisa, the divorced wife of King John, affectionately known as Wissa to locals, or just another case of vicarious imagination?

Fact or fiction? Only you can decide...

Hayley Williams
hayley.williams550
@yahoo.com

Inspiring Vale youth workers honoured

RIGHT: The Deputy Minister for Skills, Jeff Cuthbert, with the winner of outstanding volunteer youth worker, Tom Sander.

YOUTH workers in the Vale have been recognised for their hard work and dedication at this year's 'Youth Work Wales' excellence awards.

The awards, organised by the Welsh Government, are a chance for youth workers, youth projects and young people involved in youth work to be recognised by the communities they serve.

Tom Sander, from Aberdare, won the award for 'outstanding volunteer youth worker' for his support of the Vale Youth Service. Tom has set up a number of workshops to support young people, building their confidence and self-esteem.

His work has inspired a number of young men to become youth workers themselves.

Jason Harvey, from Barry, won the award for 'outstanding part-time youth worker'. He began volunteering more than 13 years ago and has con-



The Deputy Minister for Skills, Jeff Cuthbert, with the winner of outstanding part-time youth worker, Jason Harvey.

tinued to develop his youth work skills by running and supporting a number of different youth events in the community.

The Deputy Minister for Skills, Jeff Cuthbert said: "Every year I continue to be overwhelmed by the selfless dedication given by people to youth work in their communities. These awards are

our chance to give something back and say thank you."

This year's awards were presented by Radio 1 DJ Huw Stephens, who dedicated his time to the cause for the second year running.

He said: "I'm really pleased to be involved with the Youth Work Wales Excellence Awards again this year."

"It's fantastic to see so many young people getting involved in various projects, working alongside dedicated youth workers."

WORKSHOPS

ON Saturday, March 16, national Learn to Play day will be celebrated in Llantwit Major with free one-hour workshops on how to play the keyboard. These sessions will be suitable for any age, and absolute beginners, or those who have played before but let it lapse.

Call 01446 792171 for details.

Slimming in a good cause

VALE slimmers are taking part in a sponsored slim to raise funds for Ty Hafan and Velindre Hospital.

Members of the Rhosue and Llantwit Major Slimming World group are taking part in the weight loss club's national 'Slim for Good' campaign.

Members of the group

voted for the local cause they most wanted to support, and Ty Hafan hospice and Velindre Hospital, Cardiff, were the winners.

A spokeswoman said: "Taking part in the Slim for Good campaign helps to add an extra incentive to our members' commitment to reaching their dream weight."



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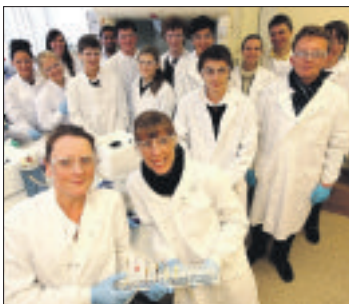
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A FOOD AND DRINK MASTERCLASS WITH MICHEL ROUX JR

Michel Roux Jr treated me to a masterclass in soufflé-making and the chef patron of Le Gavroche also discussed why he helped to revive the old-school BBC show Food And Drink, writes *Diana Pilkington*.

"Are you left-handed?" jokes Michel Roux Jr, as my right arm prods limply at the ingredients of my first ever creme patissier.

Winning from the heat of the stove, I am clearly a far cry from the professionals the two-star Michelin chef is used to scrutinising on TV.

And to make matters worse, we're tackling one of cooking's most fearsome tasks -

the soufflé.

More precisely, it's an omelette soufflé Rothschild, a Cointreau-enriched dream of a dessert that's been on the menu at Le Gavroche in various guises since Roux's father and uncle opened the restaurant in 1967.

"A lot of qualified chefs get worried about making soufflés, so this is going to be a big step for you," Roux adds, with a characteristic twinkle in his eye. No pressure then.

I feel like a bit of a spare part in the presence of such culinary greatness.

Roux has to step in a few times to rescue my wilting egg whites, but I'm determined to make the most of it.

Roux can currently be seen fronting the magazine show Food

And Drink on BBC Two.

He says: "I wouldn't want to denigrate the old Food And Drink because I used to watch it and was an avid follower."

"But I felt that one was very structured and formal and a bit too serious, whereas this is lighter and far more accessible to viewers."

So how does today's Food And Drink stand out in a market that's already packed with food programmes?

"It has to be different," he says.

"There are a lot of cookery competitions on television - MasterChef included - and the straight cooking programmes have their place as well."

"This show is topical. We choose a topic, such as feeding the world, and follow that theme through the programme."

Sadly, there was one red-hot issue they were unable to get their teeth into.

"It's a shame we



Writer Diana Pilkington with Michel Roux Jr.

weren't in the studios when the horsemeat story broke because we could have gone into that one in great depth," says Roux, who was horrified by the news of contaminated meat products.

"It's not the issue of

whether we should be eating horsemeat or not. It's the labelling. And that is shocking."

"The consumer should know what they are eating. That's a basic right."

Although he's frequently on the telly,

Roux's busy schedule means he rarely gets a chance to watch it. Nonetheless, there are a number of television chefs who he admires.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

The Dining Room



Mother's Day

Sunday, 10th March To Start

Chef's French Onion Soup finished with a cheese crostini and crusty bread

Smooth Chicken Liver parfait with caramelised red onion chutney and toasted croutons

Hazelnut Breaded Goat's Cheese on a bed of watercress salad with sweet red pepper and balsamic glaze

Main Course

Traditional Sunday Carvery your choice of hand carved meats, rosemary and thyme roast potatoes, baby new potatoes, fresh seasonal vegetables, Yorkshire pudding, meat stock gravy, side sauces.

Sweet potato, wild mushroom and thyme croquettes with a fresh herb salsa verde and rocket salad

Ham and closed cup mushroom linguine with a thyme and citrus cream sauce, finished with Gran a Padano cheese

To Finish

Dining Room Sticky Toffee Pudding with homemade toffee sauce and vanilla ice cream

Warm Rice Pudding made with Madagascan vanilla pods and a light fig compote

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Dine In Style in the Vale

COOKING WITH MICHEL ROUX JR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Michel said: "Some of Rick Stein's cooking programmes were stunning and he's such a nice man as well. But nowadays I love Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood. What they do is fantastic and what it's done for baking is brilliant."

On the subject of baking, our omelette soufflé Rothschild is coming along nicely – even the meringue, which Roux says is the bit that causes the most fretting.

"People are a bit scared of over-mixing the egg whites and then losing all the air in it but actually the first bit of mixing can be quite vigorous."

According to Roux, it's careful planning and methodical work that separates the professionals from the amateur chefs, and breaking a task down into stages can take the stress out of the most daunting recipe.

"This is a perfect example," he says, removing our fluffy, perfectly risen pudding from the oven, turning it onto a plate and scattering it with boozy apricots.

"The apricots can be made weeks in advance and kept in an airtight jar in the fridge. The sauce as well. Then, before serving, it's a five-minute job; then you put in the oven and it's done. It's all in the preparation."

I fear I may have been more of a hindrance than a help with the cooking, but when it comes to eating the thing, I'm more than happy to get stuck in!

Here's the recipe from Michel Roux Jr for you to try at home...
Omelette soufflé Rothschild (Serves 4)

250ml milk
3 egg yolks
50g caster sugar plus 1tbsp
40g plain flour
1 good measure Cointreau
8 egg whites
For the apricots:
250ml water
150g caster sugar
1 vanilla pod split
20 dried apricots
2 measures Cointreau

Boil the water, sugar and vanilla then pour over the apricots, add a measure of Cointreau, cover and leave to macerate overnight.

Remove 12 apricots and a little of the syrup and reserve for the garnish. Puree the remaining apricots with another measure of Cointreau to make a light sauce. If too thick, add a little syrup from the apricots.

Bring the milk to the boil. Whisk the yolks with 50g of sugar until creamy then add the flour, and pour on the boiling milk and mix well. Return to the pan and bring back to the boil stirring continuously. Remove from the heat and stir in a measure of Cointreau.

Heat six to eight blini pans (12cm diameter) over a medium heat. Whisk the egg whites with 1 tablespoon of caster sugar until soft peaks form. Stir in half to the egg yolk mixture then lightly fold in the rest. Butter the blini pan and spoon in the mixture and then cook in the oven at 180°C for 6-8 minutes.

Then turn out onto the plates and serve immediately with the warmed apricot sauce, and if you like, a little double cream.

Sebastian and Meg looking for a home

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Sebastian and Meg.

SEBASTIAN and Meg are two and six-year-old lurchers who have formed such a great bond in kennels that we would like to see them go to a new home together.

Meg is a very sweet, affectionate girl who really enjoys her cuddles.

Sebastian can be a little sensitive in new situations, so will need a patient owner to help him settle in. Meg and Sebastian will really

help each other in a new home, giving each the confidence they need.

They enjoy having a good run off the lead, and get on well with other, similar-sized dogs. They are looking for an adult-only home.

If you can offer Meg and Sebastian a home, please visit us at Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG or call 01656 725219. You can see some of the dogs available for rehoming on the website at www.dogstrust.org.uk/re-homing

Great War 'trench experience' in Barry

LOCAL history group Barry at War has been successful in its application to join the Imperial War Museum's First World War Centenary Partnership.

The partnership is a network of over 850 local, regional, national and international cultural and educational organisations led by IWM (Imperial War Museum).

Together, they aim to present a global programme of cultural events and activities which will enable millions of people across the world to discover more about life in the First World War.

Barry at War spokesman Ade Pitman explained, "The centenary of the First World War will be marked worldwide during 2014-18, and Barry at War group are keen to ensure that the region has a suitable facility with which to commemorate this important centenary, and one which will leave an educational legacy thereafter."

"In preparation for this, our dedicated volunteers have created a Great War 'trench experience' prototype in the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre at Barry Tourist Railway."

"This prototype has taught our team how to create such an interactive exhibit, and showcases just what can be achieved with few resources."

"The Barry Memorial Hall, was built to remember those Barrians who

did not return from the Great War, and most villages in Glamorgan have a memorial to remember their fallen."

"We're keen to ensure that the people on these memorials, the events that took place and the way the war changed all of our lives are suitably remembered and understood."

"Along with remembrance, there are very real heritage tourism and educational opportunities afforded by the First World War Centenary that could be realised as part of Barry's regeneration."

Barry at War volunteer Wayne Gill, said: "Having been one of the creators of the Great War trench experience, I was filled with pride when one visitor commented that our trench was just like what they had seen at a museum in the Somme, France."

"One of my grandfathers died during this battle, so building the trench feels like a fitting tribute to his memory."

You can see the Great War trench experience and meet some 'People of the Past' at the next open day on Sunday, March 10. Admission is free and the doors open at 11 am.

You can find out more about the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre at the website www.wartimeglamorgan.co.uk or by calling Ade Pitman on 07930 874161.

'Make cystic fibrosis drug available in Wales' – says MP

THE Vale MP called this week for a drug available in England to be made available to people with cystic fibrosis in Wales.

Alun Cairns called on the Minister for Health & Social Services in the Welsh Government to accelerate the assessment process for the drug that targets the basic genetic defect associated with cystic fibrosis.

Ivacaftor (Kalydeco) is the first licensed drug that targets the basic genetic defect, G551D. The drug is said to significantly improve the wellbeing of those with the condition.

The MP said: "I have learnt that the transformational drug was licensed in the US in 2012, and was approved by the EU in July 2012. Similarly the NHS in England began funding the drug in January 2013, with Scotland due to do so in March 2013."

"However, the Welsh Government Minister responsible for Health is yet to confirm if or when the drug will be made available in Wales."

"I am concerned that individuals who live in Wales are not able to access the same drugs as people in England – which ultimately could have a significant positive impact on their lives."

"I have written to the Welsh Government Minister for Health & Social Services to ask



ABOVE: Alun Cairns MP with Lyn Thomas and his daughter Nancy who suffers from cystic fibrosis.

her to confirm the current position in Wales and to urge her to reach a decision as quickly as possible so that people in Wales with cystic fibrosis can benefit as soon as possible.

"Having been contacted by constituents who wish to receive this drug, I don't wish it to be the case that cystic fibrosis sufferers aren't able to receive the best and most appropriate treatment for their condition, simply because they live in Wales."

A Welsh Government spokesperson told The GEM: "In determining

the effectiveness of medicines such as ivacaftor and their potential benefit to patients, the Welsh Government is guided by the recommendations of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG).

"In the case of ivacaftor, the appraisal process is under way and AWMSG are scheduled to make a decision on this new medicine on May 8, 2013. If recommended for use, it will be available to patients in Wales."

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CCTV arrests

TWELVE people were arrested in the Vale of Glamorgan last week, thanks to information provided by the Vale Council's CCTV monitoring team.

CCTV operators contacted the police on 39 occasions during the week ending February 24.

One person was arrested for alleged theft on February 19 in Barry and two others arrested in Barry on February 21 over possession of a class B drug with intent to supply.

In Barry on February 22 one person was arrested on an outstanding warrant and another

person was arrested in connection with a burglary. Police also arrested a person wanted on warrant and another two people were arrested in connection with a burglary in Barry on the same day.

One person was arrested for alleged drink driving, another person was arrested concerning criminal damage and a third person was arrested for alleged theft in Barry on February 23.

Police arrested a person concerning theft and a public order offence in Llantwit Major on February 23.

UFO 'sighting'

COULD Mr Rawlings be mistaken in respect of sighting a UFO over a well-attended car boot sale in Sully in July 2007, whilst simultaneously viewing Concorde?

I only pose this prospect on the basis that I understood Concorde to have been retired by 2007. It may be he just got the year wrong?
Richard Price,
Gileston.



College students to the rescue at Rest

STUDENTS from Bridgend College (above) recently stepped in to help the Rest Convalescent Home in Porthcawl by tackling much-needed maintenance tasks.

With only eight permanent staff and limited funds, this year the Rest contacted Bridgend College to ask if students from the Construction Academy and Public Services departments might be available to assist with renovations.

The students were more than willing to help, and after arrangements were made by the college's work placement officer, Nicola Thomas, 25 BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma Public Service students headed to Porthcawl on February 11 to start work.

A college spokeswoman said:

"Even the bad weather couldn't stop their plans, with the students moving indoors to begin prepping bedrooms for redecoration by a small team of the painting and decorating students from the Pathways to Apprenticeships course, who came the following week.

Christine Nicholas, from The Rest, commented: "On the day of arrival, everyone was very enthusiastic, they started tackling areas that were overgrown and unsightly in the grounds. We were amazed at the speed and enthusiasm of each and every student.

"They took a lot of pride in their work and used their initiative to complete their tasks to a high standard, even making some decorative finishes.

"They were able to paint some of our outside benches and even started to paint our little summer house at the entrance of the drive-

way. We cannot praise them enough.

"We have our open day on Thursday, March 14, and it is always difficult to complete work in time for that.

"This year we have achieved that and more thanks to the students. We hope this is a relationship that will carry on and we are already looking forward to welcoming next year's group."

Rachele Garrod, work placement officer at Bridgend College, commented: "This has proven not only to be an excellent chance for students to work together towards their Welsh Baccalaureate on a fully relevant work placement, but also to provide a valuable service to The Rest, which functions as a Charitable Trust.

"It's fantastic for us to be able to give back to the community like this".

THE 'BUFFS' OFFER TO HELP LOCAL TEENAGER



In the picture are Roy Penny; S Powell; K Gregory; J Pace; G Davies; A Biston; R Stoakes; J Szeligiewicz and Shannon Louise Parry Lyons. Photograph by Mandy Thomas mandythomasphotography.co.uk

A TEENAGER from Cefn Cribwr, 17-year-old Shannon Louise Parry Lyons, recently asked the Maid of Sker Lodge No 9493 RAOB (the Buffs) for help in reaching a target of £1,300 to join a group of 15-20 youths and leaders from Bethlehem Church Life Centre, Cefn Cribwr, heading for South Africa to help build a three-storey orphanage - as part of the 'Young Life International' organisation.

The RAOB is widely recognised as a charitable organisation, and the Maid of Sker Lodge agreed to make a £100 contribution to their

funds, and then duly applied to the Maesteg and District Provincial Grand Lodge, to see if they were able to offer financial help.

The Provincial Grand Lodge decided to donate a further sum of £500.

The official presentation of the cheques took place at the Maid of Sker Lodge meeting on Tuesday, February 19.

The cheque was presented by Roy Penny, and in attendance were officers of the Maesteg and District Provincial Grand Lodge, and members of the Maid of Sker Lodge No 9493.

RP

Mums' group

THE St Athan Community Association is running a mother and toddler group which meets at the Community Centre every Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm.

Mothers are charged £2 each, regardless of the number of children they have.

All are welcome to join in while their children play with the toys in a safe environment.

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NETWORK'S 10th 'BIRTHDAY'



ABOVE: Members of the Vale Community Development Network, which is celebrating its 10th birthday.

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Vale Healthcare launches new private GP practice

A NEW private GP service has been launched for Cardiff and the Vale, in association with a leading local healthcare provider.

Vale Healthcare has announced the Cardiff and Vale Private GP Practice, a service which will be available at the organisation's Cardiff Bay Clinic and the Vale Hospital in Hensol.

The new GP clinic will be led by Dr Sara Thomas, a highly experi-

enced GP, who has been the senior partner at an NHS GP practice since 1996.

Dr Thomas explained: "The major benefits of the new GP clinic will be the flexibility and the convenience it offers."

"It is aimed at people who don't, won't, or can't get time off during the working week to see their NHS GP – or who want the luxury of a 30-minute appointment with access to on-site blood tests, x-rays and consultant support."

Clinics will operate

from Tuesday to Friday in the afternoon and evening at the Cardiff Bay Clinic, and a Saturday morning service will be available at the Vale Hospital in Hensol.

Dr Thomas added: "Any contact with patients is independent and totally separate to other providers, with no shared information – so it is highly confidential."

"It's all about providing a good quality service at a time that's convenient, and all in one place."

THE Vale Community Development Network, comprising the Vale Council and the voluntary sector, has celebrated its 10th birthday.

The group was established by Gail Hughes from the Community Enterprise Service.

Fellow founder member, the Vale Council's community development officer, Siân Vaughan said: "We are always keen to welcome new members to join the network, particularly people who are involved in the voluntary sector in the Vale. We meet every three months in various locations around the Vale."

The next meeting is taking place on May 14

at the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services on Skomer Road, Barry. To find out more, call Siân Vaughan on 01446 704813.

Minister highlights value of tourism with Dyffryn House visit

WALES OFFICE Minister, Baroness Jenny Randerson marked the start of 'Wales Tourism Week' celebrations with visits to one of the most popular attractions in the Vale.

Wales Tourism Week (February 23-March 3) is a celebration which showcases the country as an inspirational tourist destination.

The tourism sector is worth £5billion to the Welsh economy and employs more than 8

per cent of the workforce. In 2011, Wales attracted 879,000 international visitors to its shores, spending £328million.

The Minister took a tour of Dyffryn House and Gardens in St Nicholas, which is the latest addition to the National Trust in Wales.

The site has recently undergone an £8million restoration and some rooms within the mansion house will be re-opened to the public at Easter.

Justin Albert, director of the National Trust in Wales, said: "We were very pleased to welcome Baroness Randerson to the newest member of the National Trust family in Wales."

"We hope she will visit many times and see how the gardens and the house grow into a major tourist attraction in Wales and a special place loved and enjoyed by all."

WELSH CAKES!

THE Vale of Glamorgan Farmers' Market will be celebrating St David's Day this Saturday, (March 2) by baking Welsh cakes at the market to distribute free, as a thank you to its customers.

Llantwit bus service trimmed

A COMMERCIAL bus service operating between Llantwit Major and Barry is being reduced from 11 return journeys per day to eight.

A Vale Council spokesperson said: "EST Coaches Ltd has taken the decision to reduce the daily service from April 18.

"Eight return journeys will run every day from Monday to Saturday during term time, with only

seven during the school holidays."

The bus service covers Llantwit Major, Boverton, Eglwys Brewis, St Athan, Rhose, Barry town centre and The Waterfront, and the revised service will no longer operate via Fommon Cross or Cadoxton (Weston Square).

A revised timetable can be found on the Vale council's website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Medieval life – in pictures!

COSMESTON Lakes Country Park will welcome new additions to its medieval village this spring – in the form of new information boards, to give visitors an insight into life in medieval times.

The Medieval Village was brought to life by 16 volunteers earlier this month and photographs from the re-enactment will become the centre-pieces of the new display. The volunteers dressed in full costumes and, complete with medieval artefacts; the photographs illustrate what life was like for villagers in medieval times.

You are invited to the
Barry Sixth Form Information Evening
for prospective Sixth Form students



Find out more on
Thursday 14th March
at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive
from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M.

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Out and About with The GEM

Walk for Life in Barry

A WALK for Life is being organised to raise funds for Kidney Wales at Morrisons' car park, Barry, on Sunday, March 17. Registration starts at 11am to collect donations and issue t-shirts.

It is again being organised in memory of Lloyd Baker and Richard and John Taylor.

Lloyd died while waiting for a kidney transplant and was a

father of two young boys.

The Taylor family have regularly organised the Kidney Wales - Barry Walk for Life as a tribute to John Taylor, who died on the morning of the 2006 walk and his son Richard, who donated his organs after his tragic death in 2004.

For sponsor forms and further information, call Debbie Baker on 07876 597021 or email debron63@hotmail.com

Youngsters through to semi-final

THE director of Superstars in The Making, Christian Bullen, is "delighted" that pupils from Budding Superstars and Musical Theatre have made it through to the semi-final of Star of Stage Musical Theatre, to be held at Cardiff Masonic Hall on March 10.

"Joshua Deol, Ruby Sim-Parfitt, Ross Neale and Oliver Haines from Budding Superstars, as well as Jodi Bird and Luke Edwards, have worked so hard to achieve this," he commented.

St David's Day concert

JOIN Harmony Ladies Choir to celebrate St David's Day in true Welsh style with a concert at Central Church, Maesteg, this Friday, March 1. Doors open at 7pm. Don't miss it!

Councillors' surgery

BARRY Court ward independent councillors are holding a coffee morning and surgery for residents on Saturday, March 2.

Couns Richard and Robert Bertin will be at the Barry YMCA Hub from 10am-11am. They can be contacted on 01446 736227.

NCT sale

NCT Vale and Valleys branch holds a nearly new sale at Cowbridge Leisure Centre on Saturday, March 2 (11am-12.30pm; doors open 10.45am for NCT members with membership card). Entrance/suggested donation £1 per adult.

Baby/children's clothes, toys, equipment and maternity wear.

Contact Julie on 01656 662564 for details.

Art society

ON Thursday, March 7, Cowbridge Art Society will welcome Abergavenny botanical artist Daniel Williams, some of whose drawings are in *Kew Gardens*.

He will give a presentation of his work following his recent visit to Borneo, and a demonstration of techniques.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm-9pm). Visitors welcome. For full programme see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Fairtrade coffee

MAYOR of Barry, Coun Les Sword hosts a Fairtrade coffee morning on behalf of Barry Town Council on Friday, March 8 at 10am-12pm at the council's offices, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA.

It is being held in aid of Compassion in Jesus' Name, which seeks to release children in the Third World from poverty and its work in Haiti to help with fundraising after earthquakes and floods.

Charity concert

MAYOR of Barry, Coun Les Sword, is hosting a charity concert at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry on Friday, March 15 at 7pm.

The evening will include performances from Barry Male Voice Choir, Barry Ladies Choir and Holton Primary School. Tickets are priced at £5. Raffle tickets will be sold during the evening at a cost of £1 per strip.

The concert will be held in aid of Ty Hafan children's hospice in Sully and Teenage Cancer Trust, Special Unit at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff.

Tickets can be purchased at Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA or contact 01446 704921 or email juliehurd@barry-towncouncil.gov.uk for more information.

Heritage festival

ST CADOC'S and St Mary's Churches of Barry are holding a heritage festival from June 9-15 to celebrate the local heritage.

If anyone has photographs of Barry from the past, or wish to be involved, contact Fr Ben Andrews (01446 406690), frbenandrews@aol.com.

Benefits roadshows

THE Vale Council is hosting welfare reform roadshows across the Vale next month, to help residents worried about how they will cope with changes to their benefits.

March 4 (10am-4pm): Barry Memorial Hall and Theatre, Gladstone Road, Barry.

March 21 (10am-4pm): Penarth Paget Rooms, Victoria Road, Penarth.

March 25 (10am-4pm): Llantonian Hall, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major. No appointment is necessary.

Teeing up for Prostate Cymru



The Mayor is pictured above with David John, of Prostate Cymru.

The Vale of Glamorgan Mayor is planning a charity golf day at the Vale Hotel & Golf Resort on Wednesday, April 17, with all proceeds going to Prostate Cymru.

The golf day is a fourball team event, ideal for entertaining or just playing to enjoy, with a shotgun start and tee time at 1pm (£200 per fourball team). A two-course meal at the end of the day is included in the price.

Coun Hacker said: "I

am delighted the Vale Hotel is supporting this event and thank them for their generosity. This is an ideal opportunity for golfers to have a great day out, playing on the Wales International Course and raise money for Prostate Cymru at the same time."

For further details, or to register your team, please contact the Mayor's Office on 01446 709301, or email: angharad@prostate-cymru.com.

OCEAN LOUNGE · PORTHKERRY

It looks like being a classic summer season here at the Ocean Lounge. With a few more improvements, and some changes to the menu and a new specials board, we are definitely worth visiting.

Can you be entertained?

Mixing it up a bit more this year! As well as cabaret nights on a Saturday we will be having some bands and comedians, plus a mixture of other acts on a Friday (Easter onwards) such as karaoke, theme nights, band nights, comedy nights, and drag artists, there is something for everyone. It's the only place to go to over the Bank holiday weekends, with 3 big nights of entertainment - Keep an eye out for what's coming.

And to eat? We offer a great value menu from only £4.99 with traditional family favourites, plus some more unusual fayre too, mostly sourced from local growers and suppliers, fresh meats every Sunday, roasted to perfection with only the finest vegetables used.

At only £7.95 our Sunday lunch offers exceptional value for a table served meal in relaxed surroundings without the hustle and the bustle of the usual carvery fare. Booking for lunch is definitely recommended.

The location? With fantastic views from the cliff top overlooking the Bristol Channel, with views to The Knap and the historic islands of Steephelm and Flatholm, and on a clear day across to Weston it is a great place to find refreshment with the large cliff top patio and outdoor seating and BBQ area, with a monthly out-door BBQ with live band from 3pm (subject to weather conditions), and yet only a 10 minute trip from Barry or Llantwit Major.

What else? A large car park and pleasant location makes us an ideal place to hold a wedding reception, birthday party, conference or any private function. In short, a great place, serving good food and good beer, with a great atmosphere!

Bookings for Mothers Day now being taken, 2 course meal £9.95, plus entertainment. Booking definitely recommended to avoid disappointment.

From the end of May, Thursday Night Quiz plus grab a burger & chips with a pint for only £5.95

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CLOUD ATLAS A BOLD AND AMBITIOUS PIECE OF WORK

HAVING undone the excellent work of *The Matrix* with two underwhelming sequels and a weak take on *Speed Racer* that crashed and burned on impact, the Wachowski siblings' stock has never been lower.

However, their latest is easily one of the most ambitious ever brought to the cinema screen as they, along with Tom Tykwer, adapt David Mitchell's dense novel *Cloud Atlas*.

With an all-star cast including Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Jim Broadbent, Hugo Weaving, Jim Sturgess and Ben Whishaw, it spans universes and time as it tells how people's actions and lives impact across the years – for good and for bad...

While adapting books for the big screen is seemingly Hollywood's favourite pastime at the moment, it's a brave group of individuals to take *Cloud Atlas* to the big screen; but then the Wachowskis have never been short of chutzpah and confidence, even though their work since the original *Matrix* has been largely derided.

Teaming up with Tom Tykwer, the finished product sees them arrest their recent slide. *Cloud Atlas* is a bold, imaginative work whose ambition cannot be faulted while its execution is largely sound and often spectacular.

Whether it is the addition of Tykwer to their directing team, or that this is a film based around David Mitchell's book, rather than coming from their own mind, you can't be fully sure, but this is arguably the most vital the Wachowskis have seemed since 1999.

Their stamp is most obvious on the future-set stories, playing to their strengths in delivering spectacular set-pieces that are epic in scale and hark back to their past glory, these scenes having the science-fiction feel that they're so at home with, but they show remarkable restraint in the 19th century strand that eschews grandiose direction for a more muted and story-focused approach.

Similarly, Tykwer is on confident ground in the story strands he helms, allowing the narrative to drive rather than flashy visuals, and between the three of them they have constructed a film that flows



by **GARETH JAMIESON**

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remarkably well, given that there is no directorial crossover.

Certainly, when it comes to tone there is some jarring, you would be hard-pressed to find that isn't the case when you are weaving between a 1970s set crime thriller and future-set action piece for example, but the three directors maintain the feel of the film in what is, at times, a stunningly directed piece of work.

With the multi-story strand working well, the pieces are woven together slowly and with care, and while the pay-off doesn't quite offer the impact the build-up suggests, come the end

credits you get the feel of a whole story rather than bits and pieces, each tale linking together to make a satisfying whole.

There are some strands that don't quite engage, the Halle Berry-led 1970s strand feeling a little too leggy in comparison to its tighter counterparts, but the performances, many of which straddle the stories with actors taking several roles, do hold your attention.

Tom Hanks veers from dubious doctor to Irish gangster (don't mention the accent) and offers a solid turn, while Berry, Jim Sturgess, Hugh Grant and Doona Bae leap into the dressing up and prosthetics box and come out of it with no little style, but the standouts are Ben Whishaw and Jim Broadbent, who, with the best story strands, offer the standout performances to match.

While both pop up elsewhere, Broadbent's largely comedic turn as a publisher on the run from gangsters tickles the funny bone and allows the actor to deliver an entertaining turn, while Whishaw tugs the heartstrings as a composer who finds himself forced into a corner, the actor's performance per-

haps the most impressive on show.

With a near three-hour running time and balancing all the strands together, the film isn't flawless; far from it in fact, as not only does the tone shift a little awkwardly at times but also the dialogue and themes sometimes feel a little too portentous, but when a film tries to scale these ambitious heights, and delivers an emotional kick, then you can at least forgive some of the negatives.

All in all, *Cloud Atlas* is a deep, engaging and ambitious film that may divide opinion but certainly offers something you don't find in your average cinema release.

VERDICT – A beautiful effort from the Wachowskis and Tom Tykwer, *Cloud Atlas* is an engaging film that may wobble a little tonally but captivates for a large part of its near three-hour running time.

A raft of good turns, in particular from Ben Whishaw and Jim Broadbent, adds to the quality, and though certainly not to everyone's tastes, its ambition cannot be faulted.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Source Code* (2011), *Looper* (2012).

Penarth Computer Club – thinking big

THE most compact computer in existence at the moment is the human brain: science is still debating why it needs to be so powerful.

Its potential is known to be much more than is normally pressed into service, but we only get glimpses into its extraordinary capabilities.

I have a friend who is burdened with a memory that retains everything. Every book, newspaper he has read and every conversation. Some people can remember their own personal telephone directory; all without any special effort to do so.

Naturally, the Human Brain Project is trying to build an artificial brain. The reward could be medical advances we can only dream about at present.

In computers, valves have been superseded by transistors helping to make them smaller and storage capacity has been increasing rapidly, but the number of connections in the human brain is such that a recent article notes that it would take 1,000 aircraft hangers filled with today's supercomputers to match the computing capacity.

Not only would that be expensive and take time to build, the power to drive a machine with the capacity of the human brain is estimated to be the output of more than a dozen power stations.

As that is rather more than the 20 watts needed by the human brain, we have our work cut out to achieve anything like a match.

What is needed is a few breakthrough developments to give progress a boost. You can read more about all this on humanbrainproject.eu/introduction.

One candidate development is that of Graphene. This is a new material that consists of pure carbon atoms arranged in a regular grid. That might

not sound very exciting, but the sheet is only one atom thick and a room-sized sheet would weigh less than an aspirin tablet.

Its potential is such that its development for practical use has attracted a grant of 1 billion Euros. Its use to produce even smaller and more efficient transistors is being pursued. Maybe this will assist the Human Brain Project.

Meanwhile, back in the world of everyday problems, some people want to show more icons on their desktop in Windows XP. This can be done by reducing the size of the icons and also reducing the spacing between them if preferred.

Right click on the Desktop background and select Properties to get the Display Properties dialog box. Select the appearance tab and click on the 'Advanced' button. Under the Item list, select Icon. The option boxes allow you to select the icon size and the font style and size. Similarly the Icon spacing can be selected either horizontally or vertically to suit.

You can also edit an Icon's title by right clicking it on the desktop and selecting Rename and simply adjust or shorten the title to suit.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, March 12 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth (7.30pm for 8pm) – topic to be advised. We expect to be looking at Windows 8 again. Check on our website at penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

Howard Desmond

MUSIC DUO

RENOWNED duo, Robin and Bina Williamson, return to the Minstrel Room at the Little Shop of Calm on Westgate, Cowbridge to present songs, music and folk traditions of Candlemas/Imbolg, on Saturday, March 2 at 8pm. More details on 01446 771166.

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GUIDE: TBC

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MEMORIES OF 1943

the year of the convoy

RIGHT: The author's souvenir of his wartime service at sea.

THE two excellent articles in last week's 'GEM' gave many relevant details regarding losses of merchant ships in World War Two; perhaps I might add a little more information about the ships and the men who sailed in them.

The photo (above, right) is taken from my recorded life at sea as a Merchant Seaman and the three ships I was in during the early months of 1943. The first ship is the *Deido*, West Africa, America, Canada and home in convoy SC118 (Slow Convoy 118). According to the German Admiral Doenitz - SC 118, in February 1943, was the hardest fought convoy of the War - 45 ships were sunk in the Atlantic and over 1,800 seamen lost in just one month.

Let us consider the *Lochee*; aged 18 and newly promoted from

Ordinary Seaman to 'Sailor', I went to the Shipping Office in Liverpool and was told to join the *Lochee* in Preston.

Now the Shipping officer was known as 'Bull...' Barlow - because he was fond of telling us - whatever ship we were joining - that "She feeds well and the ropes are very small". I immediately told him that Preston would only have small ships and I did not sail on coasters...however, he persuaded me to go.

When I walked through the dock gates in Preston and approached the ship, I noticed that there were lots of soldiers about and a distinct smell of petrol. It turned out that as tankers were unable to get fuel through to the 8th Army troops in North Africa, it had been decided to try a small coaster loaded with 100 Octane in Zinc-lined cardboard boxes!

The job was given to a coaster belonging to the Dundee, Perth and London Shipping Company. The small



crew of 17, included just six of us on deck. Air-pumps fitted to try and control the petrol vapour and off we went to the small port of Bone in North Africa. We made it there and back. *Roxane* was a captured French tanker, pressed in to service in convoys as 'Fleet supply ship' - bunkering the convoy escorts. We went to New York and back.

Conditions on cargo ships were dreadful - carried on from a pre-war cheap routine, an 84 hour week with watches '4 on - 4 off' ... so you never got more than three and a half hours in your bunk - and you bought your own mattress for 2s 6d - the famous 'Donkeys Breakfast'. You were given two brown blankets. Can you imagine what they were like on the *Deido* after five

months? The food was dreadful and, if torpedoed, your money stopped on the day you were sunk. Many a wife was forced on to 'the Parish'. Winston Churchill put a stop to that in 1943.

No wonder he said: "The only thing that frightened me during the Second World War was the U-boat peril. Indeed, the Battle of the Atlantic was the dominant factor throughout the War. Never, for one moment, could we forget that everything happening elsewhere - on land, at sea or in the air - depended on the outcome of that battle."

I was a Liverpool sailor and sailed throughout the War, but the port of Barry lost a greater proportion of its seamen than any other port. Spare a thought for Mrs Elsie Dehaney Stiff, of 76 Thompson

Street...in the space of just 18 months she lost all her three sons:

September 1940 - William aged 19 - lost on the *SS Magdalena*; November 1941 - Charles - aged 16 - lost on the *SS Rose Schiaffino*; March 1942 - Joseph - aged 21 - lost on the *Baron Newlands*.

All those three ships were carrying the iron-ore we desperately needed for steel - but on a ship with iron-ore you sank like a stone. No-one suggested making a film ... 'Saving Seaman Stiff' and Mrs Stiff, of course, went on 'the Parish'.

More than 35,000 Merchant Seamen were lost in World War Two. They tend to be forgotten. You see...there are no white crosses on the Atlantic, and they wore no uniform.

D SIMPSON, Barry

Adventure Training at Twmbarlwm CADETS NAVIGATE TOWARDS DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



The group on top of Twmbarlwm.

AIR CADETS from 372 (Barry) Squadron, travelled to Twmbarlwm (near Risca) for a day of exciting and challenging adventure training.

This was the first training walk of the year, preparing the cadets for their forthcoming Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. The aim of the days walk was to train the cadets to a competent degree of navigation, team building, first aid and understanding the country code.

The walk itself was of moderate difficulty, 10 kilometres in distance, gave some of the younger cadets their first real taste of the outdoors. The route started with a steep 700 foot climb directly up to the old roman fort of Twmbarlwm.

The group worked very well, encouraging and assisting each other throughout the day. At times throughout the day, the weather was bitterly cold and wet, however, from the summit of Twmbarlwm the cadets had clear views all round of the local area.

It forms a very important part of the cadets' training. Rigorous training on

the squadron covers - teambuilding, leadership, mountain craft, camp craft, safety training and navigation before going on the hills.

Squadron training then complements and encourages cadets to explore and appreciate the "great outdoors"; improve confidence and fitness, learn new skills and ultimately provide enjoyment mixed with excitement.

The cadets were: Rachel Carbis, Jake Paterson, Georgina, Ellie and Zena Poulakis, Jamie-Leigh Bird, Pippa Cowles and Caroline Louise Bradley. As well as adventure training the cadets also enjoy: flying, gliding, shooting, sports, overseas trips, leadership and citizenship training in a full and action packed training programme.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or you can contact the Squadron on 01446 747734 or email oc.372@aircadets.org for more information.

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Brass bands blow into Porthcawl for championship

THIS year's Welsh Brass Bands Entertainment Championship at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, the 16th, proved to be more popular than ever, with an enthusiastic audience attending throughout the afternoon and early evening to witness the performances of the competing brass bands.

The championship is organised under the auspices of the South Wales Miners' Eisteddfod with financial support from both Porthcawl Town Council and the South Wales Miners' Welfare Trust Fund.

This year, 12 brass bands competed for the various trophies and prizes, with the official adjudicator Dr Chris Davis who, before retiring in 2009, was both principal director of music, Royal Marines, and Commandant of the Royal Marines School of Music.

The stage compère was again this year David Hayward. Also present was Mrs Anne Veronica Rees, who annually supports the



ABOVE: 1st prize - £1,000 and CISWO Challenge trophy - Tredegar Band (11th time winners with 198 points). Cup presented by Coun Michael Clarke, deputy Mayor of Porthcawl.

championship with the presentation of a bursary in memory of her late husband Graham. The guest of honour was Coun Michael Clarke, Deputy Mayor of Porthcawl.

Report and pictures by **KEITH E MORGAN**



Youngest player on the day - Rosemary Deere Shield - Katie Hill, (12 years of age) with Tylorstown Band - Shield presented by Coun Michael Clarke, deputy Mayor of Porthcawl.



Graham Rees Memorial Award - Omri Tau, Percussion (BTM Band). Award presented by Mrs. Anne Veronica Rees, wife of the late Graham Rees.



ABOVE: Best solo instrumentalist and best cornet player on the day - Secretary's Rosebowl and Arthur Batten Memorial Trophy - Gareth Hann, Tongwynlais. Trophies presented by Secretary Philip Rogers.



ABOVE: Band with most entertaining stage presentation, £300 and Porthcawl Town Council Trophy - BTM Band.



3rd prize, £300 and Doug John trophy - Tylorstown Band (with 195 points). Cup presented by Secretary Philip Rogers.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Standing: Ray Giles and Doug James. Seated: Doug Peers and Frank Peers.





COMMUNITY NEWS from
KENFIG HILL AND PYLE
by **Richard Sims**

Telephone: 01656 746840
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E-mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

RIGHT: Left to right - Wendy Webster, Linda Luke, Annette Davies from the ladies section.



SHOUT

KENFIG SHOUT would like to thank the people of Kenfig Hill, Cefn Cribbwr, Pyle and Cornelly for their support and help with the petition against the proposed hospital reorganisations.

The next meeting will be held in Theo's Charity Shop, Kenfig Hill on Tuesday, March 26 from 2pm-4pm.

For further details of their activities, telephone Stan Rumble on 01656 741203.

Kenfig Hill Wellbeing Centre

Activities - The activities being held by the Mental Health Matters, at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on Wednesday, March 6, include an integrated partnership talk with Nick Frampton, 1pm-2pm; a talk by Linda from the Dogs Trust (she will also be bringing one of the dogs along) 2pm-3pm; a music workshop with Valley & Vale, 2pm-3pm; and the Reading Group, 3pm-4pm.

There will also be a social afternoon and everyone is invited to join in.

Club

reunion
KENFIG HILL RFC, known locally as the 'Mules', held their annual reunion in the clubhouse last Saturday.

There was a tremendous atmosphere when many former players, including Ray Giles, Howard Raikes, Norman Davies, Doug James, Doug and Francis Peers, Phil



Andrew Burnell, Mark Barham and Phil Butcher.



Left to right: Doug James, Tony Lewis, Terry John - three of the club's stalwarts.

Butcher, Andrew Burnell, Mark Barham and Hadyn Price talked about games from the past, and also the Wales v Italy game that day. However, they didn't have to wait for a Welsh win to start enjoying themselves, as former player and coach to the first and youth teams, Doug James, was celebrating his 70th birthday.

The day was rounded off in great fashion, with Wales winning in Rome.

Although Ray Giles and Tony Lewis were delighted with the number of past players who turned up, they would be pleased to see even more next year.

It was also good to see so many of the ladies section turn up to



Norman Davies and Howard Raikes.

cheer Wales on. They come in for special praise as they have been supporting the players for more than 60 years, not just cheering them on but also working hard as volunteers, and cooking meals for all the teams (junior, youth and senior) after the games.

The club does not

have the address or phone numbers of many former players so are unable to contact them.

As it is now an annual event, they would be pleased if all past players who have lost contact with the club could get in touch by phoning either Ray Giles on 01656 745252 or Ray Lewis on 01656 741771



A CLOSER LOOK AT... Vale Business Park

LLANDOW, NEAR COWBRIDGE

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



An amazing variety of businesses are thriving on Vale Business Park

THE Vale Business Park is one of the area's best kept secrets.

It is not, of course, the secluded little beauty spot type of secret – its hidden gems are rather more practical than aesthetic.

Nevertheless, anyone driving from Llantwit towards Llysorwney who passes by without a second glance will be missing out on goods or services that could make their life a whole lot easier.

The entrance to the Vale Business Park is dominated by the Weavers Ford dealership, but further back from the main road there is a startling variety of businesses that make a difference to people in the Vale.

They make a difference because of what they have to offer, of course, but they also make a difference because of the economic activity and employment they bring to the Vale.

Scattered around the park are businesses skilled in central heating, wood-working and joinery, household electrical work, plumbing, engineering, arts and crafts, printing, tool and plant hire, agricultural machinery and motor vehicle maintenance, to name but a few!

The estate started life in the 1970s



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when the Ministry of Defence decided to sell off land, which was bought by LEL Properties.

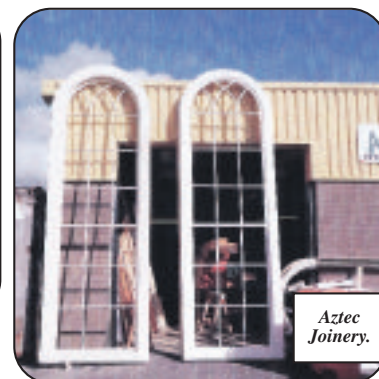
Over the years, millions have been invested in buildings and infrastructure, and the number of units has risen from an original 20 to around 90.

The variety of units mean that the mix of companies stretches from start-ups with a small number of staff to much larger concerns.

Indeed, some start-ups have moved into larger premises as their business has expanded.

So much of the economic life of an area such as the Vale depends on small to medium businesses and local entrepreneurs, and that spirit is alive and thriving on the Vale Business Park.

For anyone unfamiliar with this hidden business gem in the Vale, a drive around the park would be an enlightening experience – and you could well find the answer to a pressing need!



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A CLOSER LOOK AT... Vale Business Park LLANDOW, NEAR COWBRIDGE

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Woodspec Joinery - now relocated to larger premises at unit 33.



New for 2013, Glamping pods at the Ashdown Group unit 32.



Nina Mason, of Butterfly Ceramics, has moved from the Heritage Business Park to her new premises on the Vale Business Park. If your child has a piece of work which was not collected, Nina still has your masterpiece - please call in to retrieve it at unit 11a - or telephone 07933 809686.

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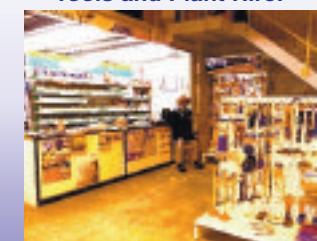
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MARIA RETURNS FROM MISSION IMPOSSIBLE!

ADVENTURE athlete Maria Leijerstam from the Vale has just returned from the 'Last Wild Race at the end of the World' - after finishing in fourth position.

Over 10 days, Maria conquered a 700km race by foot, bike and kayak in Patagonian Chile. Eleven international teams took part and Maria, the female element of Team Berghaus, came fourth.

"The experience has re-defined reality for me," said Maria. "We spent days bashing through impenetrable Patagonian forest, we traversed a million year old glacier, jumped across wide open crevasses where every footfall was poten-

tially fatal, kayaked past icebergs and didn't sleep very much at all."

"The rain poured down almost non-stop and I was soaked to the skin for 10 days," she added.

The Patagonian wind was so fierce at times that Team Berghaus were forced to shelter under rocks.

On one fateful night, the team found themselves stuck on a 800 metre high cliff edge with the light fading and winds and rain at gale force.

"The only way out was to abseil into the unknown. Luckily we found our way out of this difficult situation just before calling the rescue helicopter," said Maria.

"Our team motto, 'Keep On Keeping On' was constantly playing in my mind and I made a real effort to keep smiling because in

the middle of the Patagonia wilderness, it was all I had", said Maria.

The team even ran out of food for a 24-hour period and had to succumb to foraging for berries. "The experience will stay with me forever", said Maria.

The organisers, NIGSA of the Nomadas International Group have run this eco-adventure for the past 10 years and for the first time due to the excessively tough conditions not a single team completed the full course.

Maria is now back in Wales nursing some frost-bitten toes and preparing to run her own series of adventure races, the BURN SERIES, throughout the summer.

To find out more visit her web-site www.burnseries.co.uk

School's community faith garden is a fast growing success!



ABOVE and BELOW: All Saints pupils, hard at work in their garden.



AT All Saints Church in Wales Primary School, Barry, the next exciting phase of the community faith garden is well under way.

Art co-ordinator, Mrs Evans, has been working with the Out to Learn Willow team and the school's Eco Committee to create the living willow features, incorporating the children's own designs.

The paved Celtic cross is now enclosed by a circular willow 'fedge' and the space contains a domed willow arbour over a bench.

An outer willow fedge encloses the entire garden to create a place for calm and quiet reflection.

Large outdoor musical instruments will be used to enhance the activities.

New spring growth from the willow can be harvested to cre-

ate new hedging and will also become a sustainable source of material for willow workshops.

The gardening club will maintain the garden and weave new willow growth into the structures.

Headteacher Richard Ware is delighted with the progress of the garden, which will be a continuing source of inspiration for pupils and visitors. **NM**

NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS FROM YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG

Swimmers do well in Urdd competition

RECENTLY, pupils competed in the Urdd's swimming competition.

Rhys James, year-7 came second in the freestyle race and fourth in the backstroke. The years 7 and 8 relay team (Rhys James, Joseph Williams, Kory Russell and Aron Arthur) came fourth in the free and mixed relay, and Olivia Insole reached the final of the backstroke race.

Gymnastics
AT Sophia Gardens, pupils competed in the county gymnastics competition.

In the teams competition, the year 10-13 girls and boys teams were both victorious. The year 7-9 boys team came second and the year 7-9 girls team came third.

In the year 10-13 boys individual competition, Emyr Byrne came first and George Connelly came second and in the year 10-13 girls individual competition, Ffion Byrne was also first.

Star's visit

ON Wednesday, January 30, rugby international Mike Phillips visited Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and a question and answer session was held in the school hall with members of the school's sports teams.

Argentine visitors

ON Wednesday, January 30, the First XV rugby team, played against St Luke's School from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The Firsts were victorious over their opponents. It was an excellent experience for all involved to play against a new team from a foreign country.

Enterprise competition

FOLLOWING the South-East Wales Youth Enterprise competition final, we are pleased to announce that the Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg business group, BAB were victorious.

There were eight teams competing, including one from Cwm Rhymin, Llangynwyd, Llanhari and Gwynllyw and two teams from Plasmawr and Bro Morgannwg.

Members of the winning team were Kaleb Corrigan, Llyr Hinton, Jessica Talbot, Bethan Williams and Kiera Edgar-Higgins. They completed a detailed business plan as well as designing a logo for their bag and they sold all 100 bags.

They also gave a presentation to the judges as seen on Dragon's Den.

The group B4L also managed to sell all of their bags and were given a special commendation by the judges.

Rotary public speaking

THE Rotary public speaking competition was held at Barry Boys Comprehensive School.

There were two teams from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg competing in the KS3 competition and one team was successful.

Lois Aled, Nia Fenn and Caleb Darwin won with the topic 'Are we clowns for experimenting with cloning?'

The year-8 team also did very well with Brenning Davies giving an excellent speech on 'Instant Celebrities'. Manon Wiliam was the proposer and Llinos Jones won a prize for the best chairperson.

In the over-14s competition, Morwenna Osmond, Betsan Jones and Rhiannon Berry came second to the team from Bryn Hafren, with Betsan

winning a prize for the best proposer.

The year-10 boys team, Will Rees, Jordan Stavrakis and Ben Popham spoke very well as well.

Lois Aled, Nia Fenn and Caleb Darwin from year-9 continued their success in the Rotary Youth Speaks competition in the second round held at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg on Tuesday, February 19 and their debate 'Are we Clowns for Cloning?' proved successful once again.

They all won individual prizes as well – Caleb Darwin best proposer, Lois Aled best speaker and Nia Fenn best chairperson. They will now go on to face teams in the District Final.

Lois Aled

LOIS is a year-9 pupil who has recently competed in the SAC cooking competition – *Coginio*.

This is the second year that the school has competed in the programme. Last year, four pupils made it through to the last 20, with Ryan James making it through to the last rounds.

Lois has had tremendous success. She made it through the school round, where we had 10 entrants. She then went to UWIC to compete against 20 other young people from across Wales and made it through to the final six, where she had the opportunity to work alongside professional chefs.

This is an excellent achievement for a pupil who is only in year-9. Well done, Lois. The series is to be aired on S4C in March.

School cooking competition

THIS year, for the first time, a cooking competition has been included as one of the homework topics for the school eisteddfod.

Before half term, each school house held a preliminary round, with everyone making scones. Only one pupil from each year represented their house. The final round was held after school.

The topic was 'Victoria sponge cake' and competitors were given the same list of ingredients, method and preparation time. To ensure the judging process was fair, the staff were invited to taste and to judge the competition.

As you can imagine, there was a rush of staff all willing to offer their services as judges!

I believe we have started a new tradition in the world of the school eisteddfod: "The great Bro Morgannwg Eisteddfod Bake Off!"

The winners were: Year-7 – Jack Tweddle – Cadog; Year-8 – Catrin Roberts – Illtud; Year-9 – Jack Davies – Mihangel; Year-10 – Hanna Davies – Illtud.



ABOVE: The school's gymnasts who competed in Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.



ABOVE and BELOW: Rugby star Mike Phillips visited the school for a question and answer session.



Judging the eisteddfod bake-off!



ABOVE: Some of the young enterprise winners.



Trying for a perfect Victoria sponge.



The First XV and their opponents from Argentina.

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Don't forget your car when it is spring cleaning time!

EVERYONE acknowledges the importance of spring cleaning your home, but what about spring cleaning your car?

The AA has plenty of advice to offer, looking at the inside, outside, and underneath your vehicle:

INSIDE

The inside of your car may well not have dried out properly all through the winter, as wet shoes and clothes keep bringing in moisture, with insufficient heat or ventilation to dry it out.

Discoloured upholstery, rotted carpets and general shabbiness can seriously reduce a car's resale value.

Take out loose mats before vacuuming the carpets. If required, shampoo the carpets too but avoid using too much water and ideally choose a warm sunny day when doors and windows can be left open to help them dry – as long as you can keep a close eye on the car to prevent theft.

Wet patches under the carpets are a sign of rain water penetration. This can lead to serious corrosion so should be investigated thoroughly.

You'll probably need expert help as the point of water entry can be difficult to find.

Accessory shops are full of cleaning products for upholstery, trim and roof linings, but make sure you use the right product for each material.

Always do a test on a small patch first to avoid mistakes.

Interior glass and painted metal surfaces need only a wipe over with clean water and a chamois leather.

OUTSIDE

Remove winter grime from paint work with warm water and a suitable car shampoo.

Start on the roof and work your way down and around the car, allowing stubborn dirt at the bottom to soak.

Pay particular attention to the undersides of doors and sills and make sure that all the shampoo is fully rinsed off before drying the car.

Attend to minor areas of corrosion, stone chips etc. as they will only get worse if left. Areas of extensive corrosion are best left to the experts.

Polish offers some paintwork protection and will help to restore any loss of gloss on older vehicles. Use a good quality polish and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

UNDERNEATH

The underside of the car takes the worst of the winter weather. Mud soaks-up salt laden spray and, if left, will cause corrosion over time.

Assuming there's no hosepipe ban, hose down the entire underside of the car, paying particular attention to the front and rear wheel arch areas.

When dry, check for signs of damage to the underbody sealing compound.

The terms of any long-term anti-corrosion warranty might specify how such repairs should

be carried out. If in doubt check with your dealer.

TYRES

Check tyres carefully for tread and general condition. The legal minimum tread depth is 1.6mm, but we recommend replacing them before the tread gets down to 2mm.

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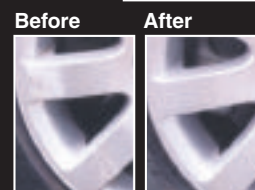
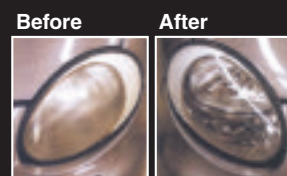
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Bryan survives wet and wild weather!

THE monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held recently at Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club, sponsored by Mr Gino Cocco, of Llanharan Concrete Co Ltd.

The long spell of wet weather, which has been the curse of golf clubs throughout the country, resulted in several holes on the back nine being out of play but a few temporary holes known as 'the loop' allowed members to enjoy a full round of golf.

RESULTS

Winner – Bryan Owen with 32 stableford points; runner up – Julian Kelly with 29 points; third – Neil McLean with 28 points; fourth – Keith Davies with 27 points.

Nearest the pin on the par 3 holes sponsored by Llanerch Vineyard: 4th hole – Bryan Owen; 6th hole – Keith Davies; 11th hole – Barrie Melhuish; 14th hole – Neil McLean.

Longest drive, sponsored by The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge: winner – Barrie Melhuish.

Guest section: winner with 31 stableford points, Barrie Melhuish; runner up – Robbie Llewellyn with 21 points.

Lost ball competition sponsored by Premier Turf Ltd: won by Clive Edwards, who correctly guessed 48 balls would fail to return home.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for February 28 at Southerndown Golf Club, kindly sponsored by Mr Glyn Watts-Jones.

At this meeting incoming captain Gwyn Thomas will herald his appointment with the traditional captain's drive-in and members are asked to be in attendance at 10.30am to witness Gwyn launching his fairway-splitting opening drive.

*The society recently held it's annual presentation evening, and as you can see from the photos, a great time was had by all!

TMC



Captain Lyn Thomas with Julian Kelly, winner Bryan Owen, sponsor Gino Cocco and Barrie Melhuish



Bombettes blitz Blackwood

BARRY Bombettes travelled up to play Blackwood Ladies with a big squad and new additions.

Blackwood could field only 13 players and this resulted in a reshuffle and a pack consisting of the front 5 and No 8 Cole.

The game started well for Barry, with most of the possession and game in the Blackwood half. It soon became evident that Blackwood's No 10 Mochan, was their danger player.

After a break in midfield, Bombettes full back Hill was left 1 on 1 with the speedy stand off charging at her. Typically the dependable Hill tackled her superbly and the danger was averted.

Scrum half Yapp was given good ball from the line outs, but was constantly harassed by the Blackwood forwards. Greater protection needs to be provided in the games ahead.

From good driving play Blackwood conceded another penalty deep in their 22. A quick tap by Yapp fed centre Jones who hustled her way to with in 5 metres, only for the supporting

Richards to power her way over for a try. The conversion was narrowly missed.

The Bombettes then exerted more pressure and became entrenched in the home half. From another solid Barry scrum, Cole broke from the back of the scrum. She fed debutant Chelsea Rees, playing her first game of rugby at No 10. She sprinted and side stepped her way to the whitewash for a brilliant try, converted by Jones for 0-12.

The next score came from the ram-paging Cole, who from another dominant Barry scrum broke from the Blackwood 10 metre line and sprinted over.

The second half started where the Bombettes left off charging into tackles. Bannister showed her speed and sniping skills by charging off down the blind side, finding support from Nation.

The resultant drive from the forwards resulted in quick ball for Richards to speed into space and power over for her second try.

The next Barry try came from the solid forward play again down the

Barry left side. Barry were held up short and Jones sniped over from close range to make it 0-27.

Blackwood to their credit, kept on asking questions of the Barry defence and drove into Barry's '22'. From a resultant infringement, the power house 2nd row Garner-Joel was off-side and took a 10 minute breather. Blackwood sensed this was their opportunity and duly powered over for a thoroughly deserved try, duly converted by Mochan to reduce the arrears to 7-27.

Like any good side, the best form of defence is attack and Barry took the game back to Blackwood. Jones then showed her other skills, picking up from the base of a ruck on halfway and breaking through the tiring defence.

She then showed deceptive speed to out sprint the covering defence and touch down for a final score of 7-32.

TEAM: Hill, O'Neill, Britton, K Jones (c), C Rees, Yapp, L Major, Cole, Bannister, Williams, Garner-Joel, Evans, Cahill, Richards, Horne. Replacements: Phillips, Boffy, Potter, Cushden and K Jones.

Barry woman of the match went to Williams and Blackwood chose Hill.

Players and management wish a speedy recovery to M Britton for her nose.

We are always looking for new players, no experience needed. We train Thurs at 7.45pm on the Bryn Hafren Astro pitch.

Next match is against Gwernyfed this Sunday, March 3, kick off 2.30pm.

AM

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

We welcome your sports reports, news and other items of interest - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

OSPREYS DUO SUPPORT RUGBY STARLETS



The boys team from Nantfyllon Primary and Caerau Primary's girls team show off their winners medals.

OSPREYS stars Rhys Webb and Scott Baldwin have been supporting talented young players from Bridgend County Borough at a local tag rugby tournament.

Held at Nantfyllon RFC and co-ordinated by Bridgend Borough Council's Active Young People team in partnership with the Ospreys, WRU and Bridgend Ravens, the competition saw boys and girls' teams from Nantfyllon, Caerau, Cwmfelin, Porthcawl and St Mary's and St Patrick's primary schools going for gold.

Nantfyllon overcame St Mary's and St Patrick's to win the boys competition, with Cwmfelin winning the bronze medal match. In the girls competition, Caerau narrowly took the gold against Nantfyllon, with Porthcawl winning the third place play-off.

Afterwards, the teams proudly showed off their medals as they had pictures taken with the Ospreys stars as part of the awards presentation. The tournament was a part of a series of contests taking place across the county borough, with the winners and runners up going through to the finals. The finalists will be going head-to-head at the Riverside Hardware Brewery Field on Friday, March 8 as a curtain-raiser for the tie between Bridgend Ravens and Swansea RFC.

Lyn Morgan, Bridgend Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, said: "A big thank you to Nantfyllon RFC and the other rugby clubs who have offered their facilities and hospitality to the teams during this series of tournaments."

"It's important that the council, its partners and local sports clubs all work together to encourage children to be active and get involved with local sport."

"A big well done goes to all the children who have competed so far, and good luck to the teams who have made it through to the final. Playing at the Brewery Field will be a great experience for them."

For more details on the tag rugby tournaments, please contact BCBC's Active Young People Department on (01656) 815216/815218.

Friends of Victoria Park look forward to future with new equipment



Pictured at Victoria Park were David Fanning (secretary of Cadoxton Bowls Club), David Langford (Friends of Victoria Park), Coun Gwyn John (cabinet member for leisure, parks, culture and sports development), Nigel Cockram (FoVP), Sian Jones (chairperson of FoVP), Coun Anne Moore, Sandra Campbell (FoVP), Coun Neil Moore (Leader of the Council), Clifford Jones (FoVP), Gwyneth Cockram (Treasurer FoVP), Pat White (Secretary FoVP) and Jon Greatrex (Victoria Park manager).

CELEBRATION was the order of the day at the February meeting of the Friends of Victoria Park as the group took delivery of their new event equipment, which includes deckchairs, gazebos and a marquee.

Over the last five years the Friends of Victoria Park, together with the Victoria Park team, have hosted a wide range of events from dog shows to Halloween parties, carol concerts, charity and community events and the popular Cadstock Music Festival. The group has also succeeded in raising more than £3,200 for charity in the last year alone.

With events at the park attracting more and more visitors, the need for professional event equipment became apparent. Local councillors were able to assist the Friends by supporting their application for section 106 development funds, which has since been obtained and used to purchase the new equipment.

Chair of the Friends Group Sian Jones said "This is such a great help, and will make it much easier to put on events. "We are all very excited about the coming year. Last year was so successful despite the bad weather, and with this new equipment things can only be better".

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore and Coun Gwyn John, Vale cabinet member for parks and leisure, attended last week's meeting at Victoria Park to make the formal presentation to the group.

With the arrival of the new event items, which includes three gazebos, one small marquee, 25

trestle tables, 100 deckchairs and a small public address system, the group are looking forward to arranging their next event and putting their new equipment to good use.

Coun Moore said: "Victoria Park and its Friends group have shown what can be done when you have a good team working together."

"I was very pleased to be able to support their application. Anne and I have visited several events over the past few years, they are always lively and great fun."

Coun John added: "Victoria Park is a lovely place to visit, and the Friends Group show how much it is loved."

"They are a credit to their community, always do their best to put on a good show, and I wish them all the very best in years to come".

If you would like further information about Victoria Park, joining the Friends Group, or upcoming events, please contact Jon Greatrex, Victoria Park Manager on 07809 551465/01446 709580

Peter the retriever gives guiding paw to airport staff!

A TRAINING course offered by Guide Dogs Cymru has continued to improve the service offered by staff at Cardiff Airport when assisting blind or partially sighted passengers.

Members of the airport's Special Assistance Team refreshed their knowledge of sighted guiding with a little help from golden retriever Peter and course leader, Rick Allbrook.

Staff participated enthusiastically, working in pairs alongside Peter, simulating the journey blind or partially sighted passengers would have to take throughout the terminal, negotiating doors, stairs and pavement kerbs.

The group also found out about different many eye conditions and experienced the effects of sight loss by donning simulation spectacles. All attendees qualified for the My Guide Level 1 certificate in sighted guiding.

Rick Allbrook, My Guide ambassador for Guide Dogs Cymru, said: "Initially, they were all a little nervous, but after putting the techniques into practice and some coaching there was a noticeable increase in confidence in a short period of time."

"All agreed they had learnt a lot of useful information, and now felt confident that they would be able to offer sighted guiding to visually impaired people who use Cardiff Airport. The techniques can also be used for other less mobile passengers."

Margaret James, Cardiff Airport added: "The training provided by Guide Dogs Cymru has proved invaluable for our staff as we strive to have an inclusive environment for all passengers passing through the airport. The support we offer to passengers with restricted mobility is key in enabling safe and confident travel and often makes the difference between a person choosing whether or not to fly."

VALE PLANNING

Ms Janet White – Land at Hill View Stud, Colwinston Lane, Llyswoorney – Retention of stable building and wooden storage building.

Mr David Bracher – 9 Barons Close, Llantwit Major – double height extension forming new dwelling.

Mr Kiall Spencer – 53 Amherst Crescent, Barry Island – Single storey extension (amendment to planning permission 2011/00330/FUL).

Mr R Penn – 1 Portland Close, Penarth – Reduce Oak tree by 20 per cent and remove Yew tree. Mr Nethercott – 13 Station Road, Dinas Powys – Fell Sycamore tree.

Mr Jeffrey Bird – RS Bird Ltd, Birds Lane, Cowbridge – One profile sign over entrance to alleyway from High Street to Birds Lane; two directional signs facing onto Birds Lane from the gate ends of 10 and 14 High Street; profile sign and four logo profile signs on eastern elevation of block of new non-food retail units.

When £5 million was left in a lane outside a bank!

THE speaker at the Barry Men's Forum last week, was John Davies, who spoke at very short notice about some of his experiences while working abroad as an accountant.

He had stepped in to give a very interesting talk, after the late withdrawal of the planned speaker.

After training in Cardiff and working in the UK, in 1971, John took the plunge and moved with his family to Zambia, then to Indonesia, and then to Sierra Leone – where he was appointed as head accountant at a diamond mining company employing 7,000 people.

The company would pay out a bonus to all its employees if they had a profitable year, and in 1985 a large pay-out totalling £5 million was to be given to the workers.

After problems in getting their local bank to provide such a sum, it was eventually agreed that the main office in Freetown could provide sufficient funds. John went and arranged the payment, and after signing for it, four large boxes containing the money were handed over. The company had provided a very secure Land Rover, normally used to transport the diamonds, with a large contingent of security officials.

The boxes were to be transferred via the back-

door of the bank, and the lane to the door was down a very narrow lane, which the vehicle, without any mirrors, could just back down.

It was agreed that when the money was loaded, they would knock three times, to tell the driver to move off. With the boxes ready to load, the bank manager came out to watch the operation, and went up to the Land Rover and knocked it with his fist, saying: "That's a very strong vehicle."

At which signal, the driver moved quickly off, to be joined at the main road by six police outriders, followed by an army lorry with 20 armed soldiers, and the company security guards, all in attendance. The boxes of money were left in the lane with John, while the convoy sped the 20 miles to the airport!

After a fleeting thought of doing a runner with the cash, he loaded the boxes into his car and drove to the airport, unaccompanied, eventually being able to reunite the £5 million cash, with the security guards and load it on the plane!

On Thursday, March 7, the speaker will be Dr Edward Hellewell whose talk is entitled 'You can't get much lower than this'. New members are welcome; for further information, contact 02920 594881.

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Family Notices

ELLIS
Myfanwy (Rene)

Slipped away peacefully on 22nd February 2013 with her family at her bedside at College Fields Nursing Home, aged 91 years. Loving wife of the late Sidney Reginald Ellis, much loved mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great great grandmother.

Will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Resting at AG Adams & Son, Tynwydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until her service in the chapel on Tuesday, 5th March 2013 at 11.30am followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

Pauline Gordon Huish
27.2.12

Treasured memories of our darling 'Polly'

As we hold you close in memory
Even though we are apart
Your spirit lives on
Deep within our hearts.
You are with us always
Love and miss you,
Steve, Andrea and family.

PITTS**Carol Ann (Formerly Price)**
(Llanmaes)

Peacefully on February 19th, Carol, loving wife of David, much loved mother and grandmother, will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral Service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, March 5th at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be sent to Marie Curie, Holme Tower, Richmond Road, Penarth.

CLAXTON
Tom

Peacefully at his home in Llantwit Major, Tom, beloved husband of Gill, dearly loved father of Jeremy and Kathryn and a much loved bampy of Christopher, Charlotte, Bethany- Alice and Lucy.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in Coychurch Crematorium at 10am on Wednesday, 6th March 2013. Family flowers only but donations may be made to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please).

WEBB**David Michael**

Peacefully on Monday morning, 25th February, David passed away under the expert care of the Marie Curie Holm Towers Staff. A devoted husband, brother, uncle, father, bomp bomp and friend to so many, he will be sorely missed by all!

"Rest in the stars".

Funeral at Barry Crematorium on Tuesday, 5th March at 3.45pm followed by a gathering at the Cherry Orchard Inn, Barry Road. Family flowers only, but donations to the Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth c/o Park Funeral Directors, Barry, The Family express their thanks for the care and attention given to David.

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2nd March, 2013

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Zoe Prudham

18
on
1st March
2013

Lots of love, Mum, daughter Sophia, Mac, Matthew, Nan & Bamp and all the family.
xxxxx

**HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY****Muriel Dear**

on 2nd March 2013

Love from all the family
x x x x

Happy Birthday
Tim Chapman

on
28th February
from all your
friends at The GEM

Thank You

'A special thank you'
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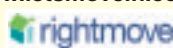
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Heather Parsons
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NEW VOLVO S60 IS A BOY RACER'S DREAM!

MOTORING by TIM SAUNDERS



The Volvo S60 R-Design T6.

seats, air conditioning, all round electric windows and wing mirrors. Car experts Parkers, write: "The previous Volvo S60 came close, but not close enough to unseating, or even unsettling the Germans' dominance of the small exec class. This time could be very different."

"The 300bhp T6 has four-wheel drive instead of the front-wheel drive of other S60 models. It's quick and grippy."

The temptation when driving such a vehicle is to floor it at every conceivable opportunity because it's such a joy. Other motorists are forced to make a double take because they cannot believe that it is a Volvo. By far one of my favourites.

Volvo S60 R-Design T6 (2012 onwards). New price range: £39,865. Used price range: £26,251.

0-60mph: 5.9secs; Top speed: 155mph; power: 300bhp; Economy: 28mpg.

Watch the video at www.testdrives.biz

PERFORMANCE enhancing drugs have been favoured by a small number of disgraced sports personalities, most notably cyclist Lance Armstrong and athlete Ben Johnson.

The equivalent of steroids in the world of motor racing are external changes that include lowered suspension, alloy wheels and low profile tyres, a distinctive finish and twin exhausts for good measure.

Manufacturers can't stop there though, because it's what's under the bonnet that must be tinkered with to deliver gut-wrenching, eye-watering performance.

That's exactly what Volvo has done with its S60 T6 saloon. Boy, this is a fabulous car, a real boy racer's delight – such an untypical Volvo, as you can see in the video at testdrives.biz.

If you have ever driven the standard S60 it is a pleasant enough experience and an enjoyable drive, but that is an entirely different kettle of fish to this bright blue Swede with its black alloy wheels.

Push the accelerator just a little and the force is enough to push you forcefully back into the leather upholstery.

Under pressure, the engine emits an attractive, raspy tone, further adding to its sporty credentials. This package is enough to unnerve even the most hardened BMW

M3 driver.

For that matter, the power available from this 300bhp monster reminds me of the old Jaguar XJR, which when new cost the thick end of £50,000 and the rest with extras. All of which makes this sub-£40,000 Swede particularly attractive.

This all-wheel drive beast grips the road well, too. Consider that a £90,000 plus Maserati GranTurismo hits 0 to 60mph in 5.2 seconds, this Volvo is only a shade over half a second slower. Quite an achievement.

Consider too, all the pioneering safety features that Maserati ignores. The S60 has a sophisticated cruise control coupled to a radar that automatically keeps the Volvo a safe distance from the car in front. It's also a reliable system, keeping the car at a set speed regardless of hills.

This Volvo will also automatically brake and accelerate and there is a helpful blind spot alert.

Inside, driver and passengers are treated to electrically adjustable heated leather front

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

Mr John Lewis – 55 Drylla, Dinas Powys – single storey extension to rear of property.

Mr and Mrs Dave Cullen – 36 Whitcliffe Drive, Penarth – single storey rear extension.

Mr Adam Hallows – 4 Nyth yr Eos, Rhosce Point, Rhosce – erection of a single storey extension to the rear of the dwelling.

Mr Evan Williams – Aberogwrn Farm, Llancarfan – retention of three existing staff caravans.

Raisdale House Management Company Limited – Raisdale House, Penarth – remove Cypress and deadwood two Cedar trees.

Mr and Mrs D and R Grey – 35 Stanwell Road, Penarth – 1. Replacement of existing roof covering on rear roof; 2. Replacement of windows and frames at rear of property; 3. Demolition of chimney at rear of property.

Mr Philip Evans – Victoria House, Colhugh Street, Llantwit Major – change of use Class A1 to residential.

Mr Ieuan Moorcraft – 48 Glebe Street, Penarth – proposed conversion of semi detached dwelling to create on two bedroom house to the front with separate one-bed first floor flat to the rear.

Mr Huw Turner – Green Oak Cottage, Graig Penllyn – change to use of garage to playroom.

Mr James Wright – 1 Court Drive, Llansannor – reduce limb length and crown thin Beech tree.

Mr and Mrs G Perkins –

Castle Court, Moulton, Barry – retention and reduction in height of existing hay barn at Castle Court.

Ms Eirlys Hatcher – Coed Mansel, Llangan – single storey extension and associated works to existing dwelling.

Mr Roy Underdown – 40 Barriars Way, Barry – Proposed garage to the side of the dwelling.

REG Windpower LUC – Abergorki Wind Farm – three turbine wind farm scheme.

Vale Gymnastics – Heritage Business Park, Wick Road, Llantwit Major – extension to existing gym.

Mrs S Ross – 2 Doniford Close, Sully – proposed two storey extension to rear of property and small side extension.

Mr Kevin Kinson – 11 Laburnum Way, Dinas Powys – detached garage and store.

Mr Salvo Erri – Bryntrion, 25 Geraints Way, Cowbridge – proposed first floor extension to form additional bedroom and en suite bathroom with conservatories to lower ground floor and ground floor.

Mr Stuart Gordon – 14 Albert Crescent, Penarth – convert dwelling to three self-contained residential units with ground floor extension.

Mr Lee Cunningham – 43 Pardoe Crescent, Barry – single storey extension to rear of property with removal of existing smaller extension and timber summer house in rear garden.

Mr Neil P Roberts –

Dow Corning, Cardiff Road, Barry – updating of Hazardous Substances Consent for the following: 1. Up to two additional tonnes of materials classified as 'extremely flammable' in bulk storage tanks, containers and process plant. 2. Up to 40 additional tonnes of materials classified as 'dangerous to the environment in bulk storage tanks, containers and process plant.

Mr Evan Williams – Aberogwrn Farm, Llancarfan – provision of sand gallop for horse training.

Mr and Mrs Byron Terrett – 16 Cwrt Syr Dafydd, Llantwit Major – extension at first floor above existing garage and single storey extension to rear; conversion of garage to habitable room.

Mr Russell Adams – 9 Andover Close, Barry – double extension to side and single storey extension to rear.

Andon Holdings – 11 Paget Road, Barry – change of use from Sui Generis to A3 Cafe (excluding the sale of hot food).

Mr Stephen Cox – 36 Plymouth Road, Penarth – removal of boundary wall in part and pillar, relaying paved area in front of house with additions.

Removal of tree after felling. Removal of tree roots beneath paved area.

Mrs Agnes Rawlings – 11 Dinas Road, Penarth – extension over three storeys to rear elevation.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardall Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2013/00120/CAC
Proposal/Cynnig: Removal of front wall to form access
Location/Leoliad: 5, Archer Road, Penarth
Conservation Area/ Ardall Gadwraeth: Penarth

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2013/00053/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed extension to provide family room, straightening of dog-leg stairway, removal of UPVC window and new first floor window
Location/Leoliad: Llwyn Rhyddid House, Hensol
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2013/00055/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Works to comprise the renovation of existing ground floor WC to incorporate new separate male and female WC's. Alterations to an existing staff room. Existing rear two windows in WC to be boarded up internally to allow for privacy
Location/Leoliad: College Fields Nursing Home, College Fields Close, Barry
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2013/00056/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed Implement Shed/Log Store (within garden of Grade II Listed Llwyn Rhyddid House, Hensol)
Location/Leoliad: Llwyn Rhyddid House, Hensol
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting Llwyn Rhyddid House, Grade II

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 28 February, 2013

M. Goldsworthy, Operational Manager Development & Building Control, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Public Notices

RHYBUDD O GADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS O DAN DDEDDF PRIFYRDD 1980
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS RHIF 36, SAINT ANDRAS)
GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2012

Ar 21 Ionawr 2013, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod a wnaed o dan Adran 119 Ddeddf Prifffyrdd 1980.

Ellaith y Gorchymyn fel y cadarnhawyd, fydd gwyrthfeyr troed cyhoeddus yn y modd a eglurwyd yn yr Atodiad isod ac a wellir ar fap y Gorchymyn.

Mae copïau o'r Gorchymyn a map y Gorchymyn wedi'u gosod, a cheirwch eu gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn y cyfeiriad isod rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm, yn ystod yr wythnos o 28 Chwefror 2013 hyd 11 Ebrill 2013. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r Gorchymyn ar werth ym 14.50 yr un.

Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 28 Chwefror 2013. Search fyrryd, os fydd unrhyw un sy'n tybio iddo gael cam, yn dymuno holi ynghyd â'i ddiwyg y Gorchymyn neu unrhyw ddarparwydd ynddo, am nad yw o'i ben pwerau Ddeddf Prifffyrdd, yna'u chydymffurfiaid. A golygion y Ddeddf neu reoladau a wnaed o dan y gadarnhawyd y Gorchymyn, caiff yr unigolyn hwnnw wneud ois i'r Uchel Lys o dan baragraff 2 Atodiad 2 o'r Ddeddf drwy wellffordd paragraph 5 Atodiad 2. cyn pen 6 wythnos o ddyddiad cyhoeddi'r Rhybudd yn genral.

Dyddiedig 28 Chwefror 2013
Cyfeirwyddw'r Gwasonethau Datblygu Swyddfa'r Doc, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barry, CF63 4RT

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 36 ST ANDREWS MAJOR)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2012

On the 21st January 2013 the Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order, made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the public footpath as set out in the Schedule below and shown in the Order map.

A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map have been placed and may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9.30am and 4.00pm on weekdays from 28th February 2013 until 11th April 2013. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.

This Order comes into force on the 28th February 2013, but if any person approved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 6 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Notice is first published make an application to the High Court.

Dated this 28th February 2013
Director of Development Services
Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of application to VARY a Premises Licence

Name of applicant: Co-operative Group Food Limited.
Address of premises: Co-op Petrol, Weycock Cross, Port Road, Cwm Talwg, Barry CF62 7LT.

The premises currently has the benefit of a Premises Licence number VOG/PRM/09/2007 - 509. The purpose of this application is to vary the hours when licensable activities may take place from Mon-Sat from 06:00-23:00 to 00:00-00:00. Sunday's licensable activities remain the same. Conditions will apply.

Anyone wishing to make a representation to this application may do so by Monday 18 March 2013.

A record of the application made to the Licensing Authority will be kept on a register at the address given below and the register may be inspected during normal office hours.

All representation regarding this application MUST BE IN WRITING and sent to: Licensing Section, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and is subject to a maximum fine of £5,000 on summary conviction for the offence.

Ward Hadaway.

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of application to VARY a Premises Licence

Name of applicant: Co-operative Group Food Limited.
Address of premises: Co-op, 1 Colcot Road, Barry, CF62 8JH.

The premises currently has the benefit of a Premises Licence number VOG/PRM/11/2005 - 026. The purpose of this application is to vary the hours when licensable activities may take place from Mon-Sat from 08:00-23:00 to 07:00-23:00 and Sunday from 10:00-22:30 to 07:00-23:00. Conditions will apply.

Anyone wishing to make a representation to this application may do so by Monday 18 March 2013.

A record of the application made to the Licensing Authority will be kept on a register at the address given below and the register may be inspected during normal office hours.

All representation regarding this application MUST BE IN WRITING and sent to: Licensing Section, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and is subject to a maximum fine of £5,000 on summary conviction for the offence.

Ward Hadaway.

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Awards night at Llandow Kart Club



Llandow Kart Club's 2012 'ever-presents' receive recognition at the annual Awards Night
PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE EVERITT

AFTER the January snows forced the difficult decision to cancel its original 'big night', Llandow Kart Club reconvened four weeks later to honour its 2012 season champions at Llanharry Working Mens Club.

The popular Cadet age group had two closely-fought classes to reward, with reigning Welsh champions Hugo Holmes (Honda) and Lewis Griffiths (Comer) picking up the evening's first pieces of silverware. They were joined on stage by their respective runners-up – Ross Thomas and Tom Rawlings – while Ethan Ling and Kieran Clarke completed the podium trios.

Things weren't quite as closely contested on Junior Honda, where Ben Stevens, another current Welsh champion, took a comfortable – and well-deserved – title, but there was some additional solace for runner-up Thomas Croydon, who was also honoured with the annual award for best performance by a Llandow club member in national competition following his success in the ABKC championship. Tom Ford picked up the trophy for third in class after joining Croydon with a 100 per cent appearance for the season.

Ross Chell is no

stranger to club titles, and returned to the lime-light with Junior TKM success in 2012. While the points difference might say otherwise, he did not have things all his own way during the season, however, with Ryan Edwards and Yousuf Ashraf deserving recipients of the second- and third- place awards.

Also continuing a Llandow tradition, Jodie Handford ensured her family's record of success was prolonged, taking the Minimax title to add to brother Steven's multiple awards from recent seasons. The club's only female champion was joined on stage by Ceran Sokhi, who made great strides throughout the season, and Lucas Wynne, who made several appearances after stepping up from Cadets and claimed the round win at November's finale.

Toby Allen was made to sweat over the Junior Rotax title, with Rob Ellis pushing him close before just missing out after posting a DNF in the season finale. Elliot Hagerty finished third overall after being in the mix most months and being just one of two competitors to claim a 100 per cent appearance record, along with Oliver O'Flaherty.

The most comfortable champion of the year has become a familiar face on the Awards Night stage, but Simon Evans had no qualms about collecting yet another Senior Honda title to add to his Welsh and Celtic

trophies. Danny Griffiths emerged as Evans' closest regular rival during the season, and deservedly earned himself the runners-up award, while veteran Paul Saunders staked a claim for the club's 'elder statesmen' with third place in the standings.

Things were a little closer in the blue riband Senior Rotax class, with club stalwart Matthew Dowers finally overcoming the challenge of David Entwistle and Sebastian Hutchinson to claim the title. Entwistle, meanwhile, capped a successful season – which also saw him crowned as RAFMSA champion – by being voted as the Llandow club's 'most improved driver' for 2012.

The Rotax 177 class, which runs along with the main series, saw Simon Wheeler depose regular champion Wayne Stone, with Nicky Coombs claiming third spot overall.

Among the other awards handed out on the night, Ethan Ling was chosen as the 'most improved Honda driver', and Junior Honda's Patrick Hill as the 'most improved Race Academy driver'. Formula Rotax regular Josh Collings was also recognised for producing the best performance by a senior club member in national competition after finishing fourth overall in the prestigious Formula Kart Stars series.

The title of 'LKC driver of the year', however, was claimed by Ryan Edwards, based on the votes of fellow club members.

In all, no fewer than 29 drivers received acknowledgement of their 100 per cent appearance record, with the combined Cadet classes producing twelve of those (full list below).

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS:

HONDA CADET:
1. Hugo Holmes (Zip);
2. Ross Thomas (Wright); 3. Ethan Ling (Project One).

COMER CADET: 1. Lewis Griffiths (Zip); 2. Tom Rawlings (Zip); 3. Keiran Clarke (Zip).

JUNIOR HONDA:
1. Ben Stevens (7Kart);
2. Thomas Croydon (Jade); 3. Tom Ford (Biz).

JUNIOR TKM: 1. Ross Chell (Jade); 2. Ryan Edwards (Talko); 3. Yousuf Ashraf (Jade).

JUNIOR ROTAX:

1. Toby Allen (CRG); 2. Rob Ellis (Kosmic); 3. Elliot Hagerty (CRG).

MINI MAX: 1. Jodie Handford (Tonykart); 2. Ceran Sokhi (Kosmic); 3. Lucas Wynne (Intrepid).

SENIOR HONDA:
1. Simon Evans (7Kart);
2. Danny Griffiths (MS);
3. Paul Saunders (7Kart).

FORMULA ROTAX:
1. Matthew Dowers (Tonykart); 2. David Entwistle (Wright); 3. Sebastian Hutchinson (Tonykart).

FORMULA ROTAX 177:
Simon Wheeler (CRG);
2. Wayne Stone (Tonykart); 3. Nicky Coombs (Tonykart).

MOST IMPROVED DRIVER OF THE YEAR: David Entwistle (Formula Rotax).

MOST IMPROVED HONDA DRIVER OF THE YEAR: Ethan Ling (Honda Cadet).

MOST IMPROVED RACE ACADEMY DRIVER: Patrick Hill (Junior Honda).

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A YOUNG LKC DRIVER IN A NATIONAL SERIES: Thomas Croydon – National ABKC Junior Honda Champion.

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A SENIOR LKC DRIVER IN A NATIONAL SERIES: Joshua Collings – 4th place Senior Rotax Formula Kart Stars Challenge.

LKC DRIVER OF THE YEAR: Ryan Edwards (Junior TKM).

100 PER CENT APPEARANCE: Honda Cadet: Ross Thomas, Hugo Holmes, Ethan Ling, Alex Rees, Stuart Ferguson, Joshua Martin, Ross Deal, Oscar Ferguson, Austin Maddocks.

Comer Cadet: Lewis Griffiths, Tom Rawlings, Kieran Clarke.

Junior Honda: Thomas Croydon, Tom Ford.

Junior TKM: Ross Chell, Yousuf Ashraf, Ryan Edwards, Louis Beaven.

Junior Rotax: Elliot Hagerty, Oliver O'Flaherty.

Senior Honda: Simon Evans, Alex Lewis, Jack Hixon.

Senior Rotax: David Entwistle, Sebastian Hutchinson.

Rotax 177: Wayne Stone, Simon Wheeler.

Bambinos: Shayne Clark, Brooklyn Thomas.

Craig Llewellyn



Llandow Kart Club's 2012 season champions show off their silverware at the annual Awards Night.
PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE EVERITT

Cadoxton Tae Kwon Do at English championships



Pictured are: Anita Sheppard, Emily Halford, Morganne Gomez, Bradley Halford, Jamie Halford, Matthew Bennett, Alan Evans, Thomas Haysham, Cameron Williams, Mason Blackley, Lucy Newman, Jasmine Sullivan, Evan Baron, Cody Jacobsen, Cian Allen, Joel Wells, Jake Quigley, Maddison Allen and Jessica Blackley.
Missing are Keita Enfield and Morgan Harry.

THE Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do travelled to Cheltenham where more than 350 competitors from all over the UK converged to take part in the Global Tae Kwon Do International English Championships.

As usual, the championship started with the pattern section where Emily Halford came away third place in her category. Emily then went on to take first place in her point sparring section.

While taking third place in his point sparring category, Cameron Williams went on to dominate his continuous sparring category and came away with first place.

Once again, Cian Allen and Evan Baron found themselves in the same point sparring category, where they both fought their way through to the finals with Cian taking first place and Evan taking third.

With some impressive kicking, future star Jessica Blackley took first place in her point sparring category.

Not to be outdone by his younger sister, Mason Blackley went on to take first place in his point sparring category.

Coming back from injury, Lucy Newman did extremely well to take first in the junior

girls black belt point sparring and a credible second in the continuous sparring.

Ever-improving Cody Jacobsen surprised his opponents with his speed and kicking ability and fought his way into the final where he took first place.

Having some bad luck recently and competing in one of the largest categories of the day, Thomas Haysham had six fights to get to the final of the junior boys black belt point sparring.

Thomas dominated his opponent and came away with first place then went straight back on to the mat to compete in the continuous sparring section, where he took second place.

Bradley Halford and Matthew Bennett were unlucky to be in the same black belt point and continuous sparring categories where they both fought their way through to the final of the point sparring. This time, Matthew took first and Bradley took second place. In the continuous sparring, Matthew went out and Bradley went on to take third place.

Having to compete against much heavier opponents, Alan Evans did extremely well, just missing out on a podium place.

After a long lay-off from the tournament scene, both Anita Sheppard and Morgan Harry fought well, Anita in the

women's black belt and Morgan in the boys black belt heavy-weight category. Morgan took second place and Anita third place in continuous sparring.

Competing in the men's heavyweight point sparring category Jamie Halford made his way into the final, taking first place.

Competing in the girls black belt heavyweight categories, Morganne Gomez Jones took first in continuous and second in the point sparring.

Keita Enfield went further in the women's lightweight black belt category, taking gold and first place in both her point and continuous sparring categories.

Giving a good account of themselves and just missing out this time were Maddison Allen, Jake Quigley, Jasmine Sullivan and Joel Wells.

The club has a busy 2013 calendar with local and UK tournaments, together with the world games in Dublin and the European championships being held in Jersey.

For further information, telephone Barry (01446) 406372 or see www.taekwondoassociationeurope.co.uk

Pupils urged to fill in survey

PUPILS from the Vale are leading the way in urging other school pupils across Wales to voice their opinion in the second ever Sport Wales School Sport Survey.

In 2011, the first School Sport Survey became the biggest ever to capture opinions of children and young adults with regards to sport, with over 40,000 youngsters taking part nationally.

The Vale was one of the highest participating areas, with thousands of youths from primary and secondary schools across the county voicing their thoughts.

Pupils and teachers from the area have now joined together to urge others to follow in their footsteps for the 2013 survey.

Cowbridge Comprehensive School in particular has seen great benefits from its pupils taking part in the 2011 survey.

Pupils from the school have been selected to take part in a promotional campaign, outlining the importance of the survey to other schools in Wales.

The full survey will go live on April 8 until the end of summer term. To find out more, visit www.schoolsportssurvey.org.uk.

SF

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Model shown is New Auris Icon 1.33 VVT-i 5 door manual (£13,145). Offer excludes metallic paint extra (£595). Prices correct at time of going to press. *0% APR Representative only available on new retail orders of New Auris Icon (excluding Hybrid) after ordered between 1 December 2012 and 31 March 2013 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, Great Bugh, Bugh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT3 9SL before 30 June 2013 on a 3 year Access Toyota (PCP) plan with 0-25% deposit. *Private Plate, iPad and LCD TV offers are available on all new retail models ordered between 1st February and 31st March 2013 and registered before 30th June 2013, only one offer can be selected per purchase, offer value restrictions apply, no cash alternative will be offered. Subject to availability whilst stocks last, visit centre for details. Indemnity may be required. Finance subject to status no over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Access fees over 30,000 charged at 4p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through Access Toyota. 5 year/300,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

New Auris Icon 1.33 VVT-i 5 door manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 52.3 (5.4). CO2 Emissions 125g/km.

AFC take all three points against Quins

LLANTWIT MAJOR AFC welcomed Cardiff Grange Harlequins to their Windmill Lane ground for their Welsh League Division 3 fixture on a very cold, grey afternoon.

The game got underway and the Major were quickly on the attack with Lee Jones taking a shot from long range which almost caught out the visitors' keeper who was off his line.

Soon after, following some good build up play by the Major, a great ball was played through to Leigh Pratt who fired just over from close range. The game balanced out with the visitors having their share of possession and a few chances including a shot requiring a great save from Lansdowne when Pratt was caught in possession in midfield, lost the ball and allowing the Harlequins an unnecessary free shot at goal.

The Major broke again with Rhys Gould going up the right wing but his pass was misplaced and the opportunity lost. Soon after Jacob Constant had a clear chance at goal but his shot was cleared off the line. The Major then took the lead when a great through ball from striker Nash found

Leigh Pratt in space and he scored well for the Major to go one up.

The Major then found themselves on the back foot with Gould conceding a couple of free kicks, one on the edge of the box in a dangerous position, the first missed the target but the second free kick swerved away from goal at the last second with Lansdowne, the Llantwit keeper, only able to watch and hope.

Player/coach Robinson then broke forward and found Lee Jones with a neat pass but he shot wide. Just before half time the visitors equalised when Gould gave away a silly penalty, albeit a strange one, that the visitors didn't even appeal for but from which they scored an equaliser.

The second half kicked off and the game was fairly even for 20 minutes or so until the Major made a couple of substitutions with Lindsay and Morgan replacing Faux and Constant.

The change worked, as soon after Lee Jones put leading scorer Nash through, the visitors centre half miss-hit his clearance and Nash scored neatly to put the Major back in front. Luke Dawes then replaced Tom Rees and the two youngsters Andre Griffiths and

Dawes played some good and neat possession football which frustrated the visitors and led to the Major retaining the lead and taking all three valuable points.

It was not a great game on a very "bobbly" surface that was always going to be difficult and in particular for the clever ball players, however, the home side showed great character more of which will be required over the next two months if they want to be promotion contenders again this season; they remain in third place just three points behind second placed AFC Llwydcoed but with two games in hand.

Squad: Lansdowne, Cox, Gould, Robinson, Constant, Rees, Pratt, Jones, Faux, Griffiths, Nash, Lindsay, Morgan, Whitlam, Shaw and Dawes.

The Major reserves are at home next weekend to Pontardawe Town with no fixture for the firsts. However, they welcome fifth placed Risca United to Llantwit Major on March followed by another home game on 16th March against Newcastle Emllyn. The club wish to thank their sponsors Watts and Morgan, MPI Aviation and The GEM for their continued support.

PL/MR

Llantwit Major netballers win tournament

THE year-8 netball squad from Llantwit Major Comprehensive School went into the tournament as favourites, being last year's winners.

They performed excellently to beat all their opposition with very convincing results.

The results were: v St Richard Gwyn 17-0; v Stanwell 14-3; and Cowbridge 11-3. The squad were very pleased to retain their trophy and look forward to playing in the Cardiff/ Vale tournament next week.

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DN

PYLE AND KENFIG GOLF CLUB NEWS

82-year-old veterans' president eagles hole!

THE 7th hole at Pyle and Kenfig is tricky.

It is a dog leg to the left and to have any chance of reaching the green in two shots requires a good well placed drive from the tee.

The green is difficult to read with several slopes with varying gradients, and getting on in two shots does not in any way make a par a certainty, never mind a birdie. An eagle is one shot better than a birdie, and if birdies are rare, eagles are much rarer.

David Henry, aged 82, president of the Veterans' Society within the club enjoyed his eagle at this hole in a recent vets' competition. He is noted for his accuracy and while he is not as long as he once was, he is by no means short.

His drive was well placed and his second shot judged to perfect-



David Henry

tion. Of course eagles require a bit of heavenly intervention, and on this occasion the gods favoured David, as his ball went in the hole for a two on a par four.

There was some teasing back in the clubhouse with lots of comments on David's handicap.

To contact Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club, telephone 01656 783093/771613 or email secretary@pandkgolfclub.co.uk. JM

The Porthcawl Bridge results

On February 21, the club welcomed three visitors – one of whom took the winning place with an impressive 71 per cent.

The latest results are: February 16: First – Mildred Knight and Andrew Tinkler (Mildred is 97 years old and still fighting off the youngsters); second – Sandie and Peter Jenkins.

February 18: First – Trish Saunders and Pat Cogbill; Second – Jean Hughes and Peter Bennett.

February 21: First –

Liam Sheridan and Steve Moss (Steve was visiting us from the 'old enemy' – England); second – Betty Longley & Tony Haworth.

The club meets three times a week – Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Rest Hotel (board-room). 7pm-10.15pm; visitors welcome.

Next comes the WBU Simultaneous pairs, when our normal club membership will effectively be playing the same hands, against all other clubs in Wales. Watch this column to see how they perform!

To contact the club, call secretary, Trish on 01656 785794.

Tony Haworth

Bridgend close the chess gap

In division 4 of the league Bridgend B defeated Nelson by 4.5 to 0.5.

On board 1 Mike Kearn scored a fine win against Jeremy Jones, while on board 2 Andrew Divetta held Clive Crowley to a draw, with Wayne James on 3 Jonathon Edwards on 4 and James Williams on 5 all winning their games against their stronger opponents, thus defying the odds and putting Bridgend B back into third place in division 4, closing the gap on the two Caerffili teams.

For more information on Bridgend chess club visit www.bridgendchessclub.com.

MK

Bowls club meeting

LLANTWIT MAJOR bowls club (men's section) are holding their pre-season meeting on Thursday, March 7 in the Pavillion at 7pm.

All members are requested to attend, and we are looking for new players who may wish to take up the game; we are a friendly club with many social events and free coaching is available to anyone new to the game.

JY

Last gasp try sends under-12s into overdrive

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-12s played host to Barry and Llandaff North RFC.

Llantwit started off the round robin by playing Barry and they started the game testing the visitors up front but were shocked by the physicality and aggression of the away side that throughout the first half would cause Llantwit a few problems in the rucks and mauls.

A fantastic line break from centre Fraser Prior broke through two tackles and offloaded the fullback Williams who outpaced the winger to score in the corner; the try was unconverted.

Llantwit then sat back for the remainder of the half and tried to absorb the pressure but Barry were winning the battle up front and made it pay off just before the half time whistle with a try to make it all square, 5-5, at half time.

Barry continued to apply the pressure upfront but Llantwit did fight back with some resistance, but on the last play of the game Barry broke the Llantwit hearts with a try to finish the game 10-5.

Llandaff North then

played Barry and won 17-5.

Llantwit then went out to prove a point against Llandaff North and straight from the whistle went out all guns blazing.

They dominated the breakdown with Harris, Treadgold and Henson protecting the ball as if it were the crown jewels. New boy McGinness put in some massive tackles and his fellow flanker Beiber also made mince meat of his opposite number.

Hughes as in the first game carried the ball well and caught the ball infield and charged through the gap like a bull to slide over for the first try of the game; the try was unconverted.

Llantwit unlike the first game kept their foot on the gas and the back-line's dominance paid off shortly after when a break from winger Richardson saw an inside pass to centre Robinson-Booth and he scored his 20th try in 10 games for the Major.

Llantwit went into half time leading 12-0 with the try being converted by Robinson-Booth. They went out second half just as they did in the first and caused Llandaff North a

world of problems. They took their foot off the gas and allowed the visitors to score two tries, but what can only be described as try of the season sealed the win for Llantwit.

A quick offload on the Llantwit 22 metre line from fly half padmore saw outside centre Robinson-Booth outwit the entire Llandaff North backline with a fantastic try to finish a dominant Llantwit win.

Man of the match went to Tyler Chandler-Haines who's workrate was excellent throughout. A mention must go to Josh Mannings who sportingly went across to play for Llandaff North due to an injury and Joshua Dunn for tackle of the match on his opposite number.

Team: Dom Henson, Rhys Roberts, Tyler Chandler, Haines, Cameron Miller, Connor Treadgold, Dylan Holloway, Brandon Hughes, Callum McGinness, Owen Hodge, Joss Harris, Ben Wilson, Liam Padmore, Fraser Prior, Iwan Robinson-Booth, Mason Richardson, Kyle Cates, Joshua Mannings, Joshua Dunn, Luc Williams, Jac Wisenden. KP

Llantwit under-13s enjoy a goalfest!

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-13A produced another fine display of attacking and passing football to beat Pencoedre 9-0.

The boys needed to work hard in defence and midfield for the first 20 minutes but then four goals from Morgan Gore, two for Angus

Mitchell, and two from Lewis Brown ensured Llantwit had full control of the game.

Laurence Bowman also scored along with another tireless display by the Llantwit defence and midfield with Luke Beattie covering all areas of the pitch to deny Pencoedre possession at every opportunity. SC

Darts league round-up

On February 19, the final line-up for the men's singles was decided.

Steve Simmonite (Edmond's 'A') will play John Izzard (Hare & Hounds) on June 8, finals night; also there was a rearranged

league match played in which the Carne Arms beat the Old Post Ladies 6-3.

Present league standings: Llanharry (73 points), Edmond's 'B' (69), Edmond's 'A' (55), Hare and Hounds (52), Carne Arms (42), White Lion (41), Farmers Arms (39), Cross Inn & Old Post Ladies (33), Highwayman Inn (31).

On March 5 the semi-finals and final of the mixed doubles will be played at the Old Post.

In the first semi-final Mo Flemming & Nigel Thomas (Farmers Arms) will play Annie Daily & Steve Simmonite (Edmond's

'A') while in the other Pam Rosser & Clive Williams (Carne Arms) will play Joan Smith & Dave Thomas (Farmers Arms). All matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are always welcome.

For further informa-

tion and any enquires please e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@google-mail.com; up-to-date information on upcoming matches, league results and league table can be found at: www.darts.apsn.co.uk. PT

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GEM sport

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Wales pack
too big a
punch as
Italy's most
potent
weapon is
defused.

TRY! The moment (above) that changed the course of the game as Jonathan Davies, capitalises on Italian confusion to cross for a converted try that put Wales 10 points ahead.

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John



TRY! Alex Cuthbertson grounds the ball for Wales' second try that clinched a memorable win in Rome.

ON the eve of Wales' third Six Nations clash at a rain-lashed Stadio Olimpico in Rome at the weekend, caretaker head coach Robert Howley had warned his young charges not to underestimate opponents who have traditionally propped up the Six Nations table – and, moreover, were missing their one world class player, banned skipper Sergio Parisse.

"We've always found it tough going there – Italy have always been difficult to break down and very well organised... It's one of the toughest places to go in Europe and we have huge respect for them," he averred.

Despite Wales finally ending a run of eight defeats with the 16-6 victory in Paris two weeks earlier, he cautioned: "We realise that one win isn't good enough, and that it's about momentum – to go out there and beat Italy. The key is good discipline – which is not just about not giving penalties away, but having accuracy and discipline with the ball."

Note, even against so-called international 'minnows', no talk here of expansive Welsh play of the kind that in the recent past has excited the rugby world – but, as befits a team struggling to regain their poise and confidence, just a simple, pragmatic objective – 'to go out there and win!'

That, of course, is easier said than done against rugged opponents renowned for the formidable, physical threat they normally present up front, particularly in the set piece, and roared on by their home crowd in torrential conditions. The big question was,

could the Welsh pack, in an unchanged line-up that had been heavily penalised in the game against France, rise to the challenge – or would they struggle again in the scrum?

In fact, to their credit, they met the vaunted Italian forward power head-on and crushed it, magnificently led by their impressive Lions' props – tight head Adam Jones (who had gallantly blamed himself for the Paris shortcomings) and Gethin Jenkins (who will soon be heading back home to the Cardiff Blues); along with Paul James, who came on as his replacement at loose-head.

The pack's commanding performance and that of France, who steamrollered England in the first half, before imploding at Twickenham on Saturday – though the French cause was not helped by some wayward decisions by the man with the whistle – may have marked the scrum's rebirth as the game-changing force of old at international level.

Certainly, it was the biggest single factor in what was, in the end, a conclusive 26-9 victory for Wales, with nine penalty points conceded by the Italian eight, and also producing a sin-binning for their acting skipper, rugged Leicester prop, Martin Castrogiovanni, after repeated warnings from the referee.

It prompted Wales' proud match captain Ryan Jones, who had again led from the front with another fine performance, to comment: "I don't profess to know what goes on at the scrum... but there are six very happy lumpers in our changing room!"

In a weather-dominated game that, like the gritty win in

France, could hardly qualify as a rugby classic, with chances going begging and errors mounting on both sides in the wind and rain, Wales exerted fierce pressure up front from the start.

This resulted in the first of three successful penalty kicks by ever-reliable full back, Leigh Halfpenny – but Italy responded with two place kicks of their own by outside half Kris Burton, who also missed with a snap drop goal, to make the score 9-6 to Wales at the interval.

A sloppy restart by Wales saw Burton again miss the target with a drop goal attempt, but Italy were soon put under pressure again; and Jonathan Davies, who like co-centre Jamie Roberts, had an otherwise muted impact on proceedings, gleefully scooped up a loose ball and strolled through for a try, which Halfpenny easily converted for a 16-6 lead.

Eight minutes into the half, after Wales had made a mess of a lineout, embattled Italy were eventually able to claw back three points through a penalty kick by Burton – but this was to be their final scoring effort and Halfpenny promptly stretched the margin to 19-9 with a monster place kick from halfway.

With pressure resumed on the home scrum, it led to Castrogiovanni's yellow card and, with nine minutes to full time, a comprehensive victory was ensured when right wing Alex Cuthbert cut through for his seventh touchdown in a Welsh shirt.

Man of the match Halfpenny converted, to make the final score 26-9 and seal Wales' 17th win in 20 meetings with the shell-shocked Azzurri. The collapse of

the feared Italian scrum was just the first in a weekend of Six Nations surprises: with Grand Slam-hunting England being rocked by a suddenly rejuvenated France, despite benefiting from both myopic match officials and equally baffling decisions made by the French head coach to change horses in midstream, which ripped his team apart and may well have cost them victory on Saturday.

Then there was Scotland's stunning 12-8 win at Murrayfield on Sunday, despite Ireland claiming three-quarters of possession and territory!

Not only did it finally lay bare Irish deficiencies that had surfaced in the games against Wales and England but, amazingly, it has even given the unfancied Scots an admittedly slim hope of winning the championship, as they prepare to welcome Wales next week.

Even allowing for the fact that performances in this year's Six Nations have undoubtedly been adversely affected by the elements to an exceptional extent, it is also true that the standard overall in the competition has been disappointingly low across all of the home countries.

That surely cannot be a cause for satisfaction, with the British and Irish Lions' tour to Australia next on the horizon, and Warren Gatland may yet be forced to 'think outside the box', rather than rely on results in the tournament as a guide to players' suitability for selection.

It could also mean players will come under extra scrutiny, with a last chance to impress in their final club and regional outings!

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